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TORONTO • WEDNESDAY NOV 12 2008 metronews.ca

Travel pg 23

Winter love-it or hate-it getaway ideas

Honouring our newly fallen

REMEMBRANCE Bells tolled, guns boomed and thousands of Canadians gathered at the National War Memorial to pay solemn tribute to Canada's war dead.

Across town, Cpl. Dean Boyd paid a silent remembrance at a smaller war memorial — the grave of friend Cpl. Brendan Downey, who was killed while serving at a Canadian Forces base in the Middle East.

Boyd, who escorted Downey's body back to Canada, travelled from Edmonton to be at the National Military Cemetery for the first Remembrance Day since Downey's death in July.

"I served with him in Afghanistan, we went through training together," said Boyd, a military police officer. "It's a small community but we take care of our own."

Boyd was among hundreds who marked Remembrance Day at the cemetery, where veterans and casualties of current conflicts can be buried.

The service was very emotional as some of Canada's most recent casualties from Afghanistan are buried here.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MORE COVERAGE, P. 3 & 6

RICK MCGINNIS/METRO TORONTO

Sgt. Ivan Oliynykov stands vigil in World War One battle dress at the cenotaph at Old City Hall yesterday, as veterans, politicians, diplomats and representatives of city government and services laid wreaths during Remembrance Day services.

Stabbing shuts down city school

When he saw his friend lurch from the cab and limp through a parking lot toward his home, he ran to see what was wrong.

When they reached the teen's North York apartment, he saw the young man was bleeding from a wound to his stomach.

"I seen blood and so I just started wrapping him up with towels," his friend.

The Grade 11 student was stabbed yesterday in C.W. Jefferys Collegiate Institute, the troubled school where Jordan Manners was killed, a tragedy that sparked an outcry about school safety.

"I don't know what's wrong with this city but it's an everyday thing now," the victim's friend said.

Teens at the school said while the victim was a student, the assailant was not.

Parents gathered outside the North York school yesterday, which was put into lockdown at 12:47 p.m, with some calling for more safety measures at the school.

But despite what's taken place at the school, principal Audley Salmon remained steadfast in his belief the school is safe

"The school is without a doubt unequivocally safe," he said. "It's an incident that can happen in any community in Canada."

Recently, the Jefferys' parent council met to discuss having a cop stationed there, but Trustee Stephnie Payne had said she didn't want police in schools without community input. She could not be reached yesterday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Safety history

- The board allotted 32 cameras for C.W. Jefferys after the May 2007 shooting death of Jordan Manners.

York U calls for arbitration

STRIKE York University officials says a strike by part-time workers could be over within 24 hours if their union would agree to binding arbitration.

York spokesperson Alex Bilyk said the university is still waiting for a response to its offer of 9.25 per cent over three years.

But union officials agreed the strike could be over in 24 hours "if the university would bargain for real" and boost job security and health benefits.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ShareYourViews
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Automotive pg 15

Inside Bond's Aston Martin

Workology pg 38

Debt-free tips for students

Celeb pg 44

Orlando to wed?

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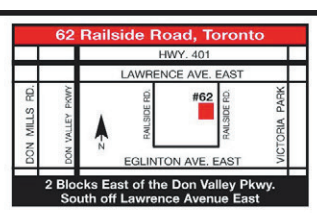

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*In order to accommodate as many customers as possible, Comme des Garçons for H&M will be limited to two pieces of the same style per customer.

Toronto man charged in alleged $800K fraud scheme
A Toronto man has been arrested for allegedly defrauding GTA and Vancouver residents out of about $800,000 in a scheme involving digital photo machines. Xiandong Chen, 41, is charged with fraud and theft. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Skating rinks may stay open longer

Fourteen artificial outdoor skating rinks in Toronto will remain open the first two weeks in March — weather permitting — if recommendations in a staff report from city hall are endorsed. The rinks, including those at Nathan Phillips Square and Mel Lastman Square, would be kept open until March 15, at a cost of $172,000. Traditionally, the outdoor rink season ends at the beginning of March, in part because stronger sunlight and longer days make it difficult to keep the ice frozen. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tomorrow's Metro

CD reviews

Check out Metro's take on latest music releases, including the soundtrack to Quantum of Solace.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Watch families of slain soldiers join an emotional ceremony in Kandahar at metronews.ca/canada
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News in brief

CITATION A teacher is being considered for a civilian citation at this year's Toronto Fire Service Awards after she helped rescue a 19-year-old disabled woman and her brother from a house fire in the city's northwest end on Monday. The teacher went into the home on Bucksburn Road despite "heavy smoke and a lot of heat" before firefighters arrived. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Clean commute urged

City kicks off plan to coax people out of their cars

The TTC might be the better way, but then again so could a bike, a brisk walk or a lift from a neighbour.

That will be the message of the Toronto area's newest "Smart Commute" association, designed to coax city commuters out of their cars by enlisting the support of employers and property managers.

"Smart Commute Toronto-Central will provide tools and resources to help commuters make the shift away from the car to more sustainable modes of travel like carpooling, transit, walking, cycling and telework," said Mayor David Miller at the City Hall launch last week.

Smart Commute associations help companies set up ride-matching programs, shuttles, emergency rides, telecommuting, compressed work weeks and flex hours. They also encourage employers to offer incentives such as transit pass discounts and preferred parking for those who choose to carpool.

Miller called employer response to the newest Smart Commute association "overwhelming," with 30 companies and organizations already expressing interest in greening the commutes of their workers.

About 500 employees of Bay Street firm Cisco Systems have already completed a Smart Commute survey, said company spokesperson Cheryl Saito.

Cisco will work with Smart Commute to determine how more staff can get to work by means other than driving alone in a car. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Drop in lone riders

- More than a half-dozen Regional Smart Commute groups now operating say they have eliminated a total of 1.3 million single-occupant car trips in the past four years.

Pool owner draws fire over nursing

YORK REGION A breastfeeding brouhaha has broken out at a York Region swimming facility. At one end of Newmarket's AquaCentre Swim School pool is Cinira Longuinho, who wants Ontario's Human Rights Commission to investigate why she was asked to leave the water Oct. 24 while breastfeeding her 20-month-old daughter Camilla on the pool steps. At the other end of the pool — and drowning in a sea of blogs, e-mails and protests — is pregnant AquaCentre owner Ellie Karkouti, who hired four security guards when Longuinho and her supporters threatened to stage a "peaceful nursing protest" last Friday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MuchMusic Fans in Twilight zone

MUCH MUSIC PHOTO

Fans show off their Twilight memorabilia while waiting in line for Twilight Live@Much wristbands in Toronto yesterday. The cast of the upcoming film, based on the bestselling novel of the same name, visits the station's studio on Saturday at 6 p.m.

City school remembers with soldiers' words

Danforth Collegiate student Bill Cai's voice echoed across the school's assembly hall yesterday as he read an emotional letter written by a Canadian soldier during World War II.

The hall was silent as a captivated audience of students and teachers watched 16-year-old Cai read the correspondence, written in 1944 by Lt. Harold McLaughlin, a past student of the school. Cai was reading from a collection of letters that were mailed to the school by past students serving overseas during the war.

The Grade 11 student said he moved to Canada four years ago and wanted to pay tribute to the people who created a free and peaceful country for him to live in.

Over the years, the school has used the letters stored in their library as the focal point of their Remembrance Day events. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rocket at your fingertips

First there was myTTC.ca, the unofficial transit trip planner that elicited cheers among transit watchers in the blogosphere by preempting the TTC's own version.

Now Toronto's community of subversive transit-riding computer programmers has combined myTTC's trip-planning data with the portability of the trendiest technology around: the iPhone and iPod Touch. Called Red Rocket, the new application puts TTC route maps and schedules in the palm of a gadget-loving rider's hand.

Benefit

- One of the biggest benefits of Red Rocket, which can be downloaded for a toonie, is its GPS capability.

It doesn't offer real-time information on where the TTC's vehicles are. But the schedule and route data from myTTC.ca is embedded in Red Rocket, and its creators — Hilary Street and George Talusan — say it's a more accurate portrayal of when buses and streetcars actually depart.

A trip planner using the TTC's own data will be available in July and a next-vehicle arrival system will be tested on the Harbourfront streetcar line starting later this month, said spokesperson Brad Ross. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

LANDLORDS A plan that says no to licensing Toronto apartment building operators was endorsed by the city's executive committee yesterday. The committee heard that a plan to deal with landlords who run substandard digs would take about two years to implement. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The CIBC Financial HealthCheck and why it's worth a talk.

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Man dead after car hits pole

A 23-year-old man is dead after his car drove across two lanes of oncoming traffic before crashing into a pole in Mississauga Monday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bus 'crushes' woman

59-year-old struck, dragged to death

A woman crossing at an intersection in northeast Toronto yesterday morning was struck, crushed, then dragged beneath a small school bus.

The driver, a 67-year-old man, apparently did not notice, police said.

At 7:15 a.m., the 59-year-old woman was crossing the street at Steeles Avenue East and Pharmacy Avenue when she was hit by the front end of the 20-passenger minibus. It was turning right from Pharmacy into the eastbound lanes of Steeles. The woman was pulled under a wheel, driven over and dragged a short distance, police said. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

"Her head was literally crushed by the school bus," said Sgt. Tim Burrows, adding that initial reports she was decapitated are untrue.

Police said there were no children on the bus at the time.

The driver was interviewed by police yesterday and spent the morning in the passenger side of the cruiser next to the bus. An orange tarp was used to cover the woman while investigators were on scene. Her burgundy purse and other possessions were scattered nearby.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Witnesses sought

- There are conflicting witness reports as to whether the woman had obeyed the crossing signal. Witnesses are asked to contact police. A meeting will be held tomorrow with the investigation team to decide if charges are warranted.

Cops mum on realtor's autopsy

Peel police are staying tight-lipped on the autopsy results of slain Mississauga real estate agent Susan Ryan, saying they don't want to compromise the case against her husband, a former Toronto police officer now charged with second-degree murder.

"We want to keep it (the investigation) as pure as possible and not put any jury pool at risk of hearing the information prior to (the trial) and not taint any potential jury pool," Const. Wayne Patterson of Peel Region police said yesterday.

The fact that Ryan's husband recently retired from Etobicoke's 22 Division has no bearing on the decision to withhold the autopsy results, Patterson said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

APPOINTED It's famous for its powerful lacrosse team, which happens to be called the Blue Jays. But for most of its 132-year history, the Canadian connection at Johns Hopkins University was relatively obscure. That changed yesterday, when Toronto-born Ron Daniels, 49, was named president of the prestigious Maryland institution, the richest research university in the United States. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Harvey's linked to E. coli will reopen its doors
A Harvey's restaurant in North Bay, Ont., linked to an E. coli outbreak suspected of sickening up to 250 people has been cleared to reopen. The restaurant was closed Oct. 12 . THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Lettuce the likely culprit

Romaine lettuce is the "prime suspect" in an E. coli outbreak in southwestern Ontario that has sickened at least 26 people, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency said yesterday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec City **Remembrance**

JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Veteran Charles Forbes, left, is helped by a colleague after he laid a wreath at the cenotaph during a Remembrance Day ceremony yesterday in Quebec City. Forbes is the highest decorated war veteran still living in Canada.

McGuinty seeks auto bailout

Premier Dalton McGuinty will meet next week with auto industry officials to discuss the "significant" bailout package he's seeking for them from Ottawa.

Details of next week's meeting with the auto officials are still being worked out, but sources said yesterday it is a top priority for McGuinty, who wants to hear what the manufacturers need to get motoring again.

Embattled North American automakers General Motors, Ford and Chrysler will be invited to the "listening meeting," along with top brass from Toyota and Honda, Japanese-based companies that also manufacture vehicles in Ontario.

"Is there something worth fighting for here? I think so. We're the largest auto producer in North America."
Premier Dalton McGuinty

Although it has been suggested that GM, Ford and Chrysler need a $4-billion infusion in Canada, the premier has insisted it's too early to calculate a price tag.

McGuinty emphasized the public should be repaid for any taxpayer-funded aid package.

"The need is for loan guarantees with an assurance that everything is going to be paid back," he said, adding any aid package must come "sooner rather than later."

Industry watcher Dennis DesRosiers said every premier should participate in the high-level talks for auto aid packages in Canada because it affects them.

"Even if they don't have any significant manufacturing in their province, car dealers across the country are among the biggest job generators in communities and most important businesses," DesRosiers noted.

"If an automaker fails, it will affect the dealer network and all the jobs tied to them."

Canada has more than 3,400 auto dealerships, employing about 155,000 workers.

"Is there something worth fighting for here? I think so. We're the largest auto producer in North America," McGuinty said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Loonie's drop worries American realtors

As the key buying season for vacation homes in the United States gets underway, a dramatic drop in the value of the loonie has realtors worried Canadian buyers will be staying home for the winter.

"Last year there was a tremendous upswing, especially when the Canadian dollar was above par," said Rob Mackett, a Canadian who is a broker in Naples, Fla.

"But you're certainly not seeing as much interest now."

Buying power

- Canadians accounted for almost one-quarter, or 23.6 per cent, of all non-American buyers last year.

According to a recent study by the U.S.-based National Association of Realtors, Canadians were the top foreign purchasers of American properties from May 2007 to May 2008, doubling up from the year before

In second place was the United Kingdom at 12.5 per cent and Mexico with 8.7 per cent.

"Canadian buyers have certainly been a big factor especially because of the weakness in the U.S. dollar," NAR economist Lawrence Yun, the author of the report, said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

LAW PickupPal.com will begin warning its Ontario customers they're likely breaking the law by co-ordinating car rides through the popular website, after a board ruled the website was operating illegally in the province.

WINNER Shoba Mehta, a 15-year-old student from Unionville, Ont., has won a Great War letter-writing contest from more than 3,000 entries from students across Canada. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Iron Man

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Grandson claims family treasures
A shadow box containing war medals and a photograph of a Second World War soldier left at an Edmonton framing shop 13 years ago has been claimed by the soldier's grandson, Merlin Friel. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Elections Canada to spend $1.3M on surveys

Elections Canada is spending $1.3 million to ask Canadians how they are doing, plumbing satisfaction with its performance in the October federal election.

That has some critics questioning whether it's a wise use of taxpayer money. And it has sparked a new round of complaints about election-day problems, especially the new requirement for voter photo identification.

Elections Canada is allocating $900,000 for surveys of voters, candidates, returning officers and others, spokesman John Enright told The Canadian Press.

> **"I don't think Elections Canada should be proud of their work this time."**
> NDP MP Yvon Godin

The surveys also cover journalists, staff at polling stations, associations that represent social groupings where Elections Canada wants to increase election participation.

The agency is spending a further $400,000 as a contribution to the Canadian Election Study, a massive university-based survey of elections.

"If they want to do surveys without costing them anything, there's 308 MPs they can consult," said New Brunswick NDP MP Yvon Godin, the party's whip.

"I don't think Elections Canada should be proud of their work this time," Godin said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hall Findlay won't run for Grit top job

LEADERSHIP Martha Hall Findlay, one of the most prominent female stars in the Liberal firmament, won't take a second shot at becoming federal party leader.

The Toronto MP announced yesterday she won't join the race to succeed Stéphane Dion.

Her decision increases the likelihood that there will be no women candidates on the ballot when Liberals vote in May to choose a new leader.

Brampton MP Ruby Dhalla is the only other woman who is considering jumping into the contest but she would be a long shot in a race that is shaping up into a rematch between the 2006 front-runners, Michael Ignatieff and Bob Rae.

Dhalla could not be reached for comment.

Hall Findlay was a long shot in 2006, but she won admiration for her spunky campaign.

"It has been agonizing," she said yesterday. "I really do feel strongly that one shouldn't make a decision like this just because of gender." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Last time...

- Findlay was the only woman to stay in the 2006 contest to the end, ultimately throwing her support to Dion after coming last on the first ballot.

News in brief

QUEBEC ELECTION The leaders of the Quebec Liberal party and the Parti Québécois gave each other failing grades as economic managers yesterday, as the head of the Action democratique du Quebec insisted it's time to bring back traditional values of hard work in provincial schools. The party leaders took time out from their sniping to attend Remembrance Day ceremonies but quickly resumed their salvos after paying tribute to Canada's fallen soldiers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Remote control machine-guns put along the Gaza Strip

Israeli defence officials say the military has deployed remote-controlled machine-guns along its border with the Gaza Strip. The system allows soldiers watching television screens in control rooms in the rear to spot targets and open fire. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Mother chosen as astronaut

Japan has chosen a female astronaut for a 2010 space shuttle mission. Officials say Naoko Yamazaki, 37, will lift off for a two-week flight of the shuttle Atlantis sometime in February 2010. Yamazaki, the mother of a six-year-old girl, is the second Japanese woman to go into space after Chiaki Mukai in 1994 and 1998. She will be Japan's eighth astronaut in space. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World leaders gather to honour the fallen

Leaders of a united Europe and delegations from Canada and Australia yesterday marked the 90th anniversary of the end of the First World War, which tore the continent apart and cost millions of lives.

Prince Charles and French President Nicolas Sarkozy attended the solemn ceremony in the northeastern French town of Douaumont, near the site of the Battle of Verdun — one of the conflict's bloodiest battlefields.

There, an estimated 300,000 soldiers lost their lives in 300 days of ferocious fighting between French and German troops for control of River Meuse, a key strategic post on the eastern approach route from Germany to Paris. The French forces prevailed in December 1916.

"All those who fought to the extreme limit of their strength, their hearts full of love of country, and the conviction they were defending a just cause."
French President Nicolas Sarkozy

Sarkozy stressed how far Europe had come since the end of the conflict.

The leaders had come together, he said, to honour "all those who fought to the extreme limit of their strength, their hearts full of love of country, and the conviction they were defending a just cause."

Veterans Affairs Minister Greg Thompson represented Canada at the ceremony.

"Today is a national holiday here. Huge crowds have come out to say 'Thank you' to Canadians and all those other nations that helped liberate France in both wars," Thompson said.

"And we brought many of those World War Two veterans with us as well over here, so a very emotional day for all of here on the ground in France."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ramallah **Remembering Arafat**

MUHAMMED MUHEISEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palestinian Fatah supporters wait prior to a ceremony to mark the fourth anniversary of leader Yasser Arafat's death, at Mahmoud Abbas' headquarters in the city of Ramallah yesterday.

News in brief

SCIENCE Roman Catholic Church officials are sending messages to U.S. president-elect Barack Obama, saying they will oppose any changes in U.S. policies on embryonic stem cell research.

RUSSIA President Dmitry Medvedev submitted a bill yesterday to extend Russia's presidential term from four years to six, making good on a promise in his state of the nation address. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palin staying in the public limelight

APPEARANCES Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin has put the "brutal" 2008 campaign behind her and has the next presidential race in her sights, with a flurry of national television interviews and a high-profile appearance at the Republican Governors Association meeting this week.

Palin

Palin's stepping-out has been a marked departure for a vice-presidential candidate who was held to tightly controlled appearances for much of the fall campaign.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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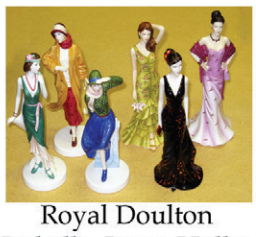

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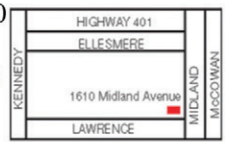

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Airport chaos in Italy
Travellers faced delays and cancellations at Italian airports yesterday, a day after a wildcat strike forced Alitalia to scrap dozens of flights. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New pyramid found

Archeologists have discovered a new pyramid under the sands of Saqqara, an ancient burial site that has yielded a string of unearthed pyramids in recent years but remains largely unexplored.

The 4,300-year-old monument most likely belonged to the queen mother of the founder of Egypt's 6th Dynasty, and was built several hundred years after the famed Great Pyramids of Giza, antiquities chief Zahi Hawass told reporters in announcing the find yesterday.

The discovery is part of the sprawling necropolis and burial site of the rulers of ancient Memphis, the capital of Egypt's Old Kingdom, about 20 kilometres south of Giza.

All that remains of the pyramid is a five-metre-tall structure that had been buried under 20 metres of sand.

"There was so much sand dumped here that no one had any idea there was something buried underneath," said Hawass.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

118th discovered

- The pyramid is the 118th discovered so far in Egypt, and the 12th to be found in Saqqara. Most are in ruins; only about a dozen pyramids remain intact across the country.

News in brief

KILLER DEAD Serial killer Arthur Shawcross, who was serving life in prison for strangling 11 women in the Rochester, N.Y., area, has died at 63. His victims, most of them prostitutes, were killed from March 1988 to January 1990.

SHUTTLE An approaching cold front could thwart NASA's plans to launch space shuttle Endeavour on Friday on a flight to the International Space Station. The astronauts are to deliver a new bathroom, kitchenette and two bedrooms.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

British girl, 13, allowed to refuse heart transplant

A 13-year-old British girl who has undergone nearly a dozen surgeries in her young life has refused a heart transplant operation — a decision that may ultimately lead to her death.

Hannah Jones, who was diagnosed with leukemia and later a heart condition, told her parents and medical authorities that she would rather spend her remaining time at home than in the hospital. Health authorities have ceded to the decision after interviewing the girl.

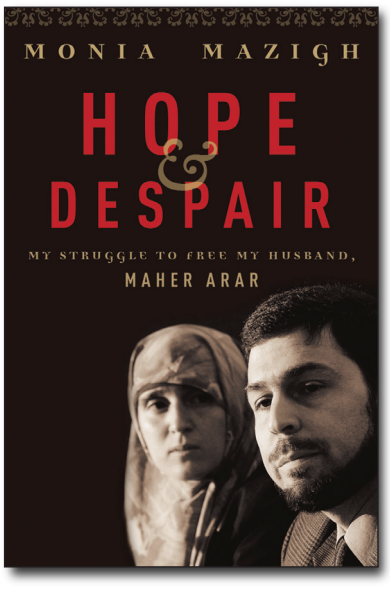
"I've been in hospital too much — I've had too much trauma," Hannah Jones said yesterday.

The girl's story surfaced when parents complained after a social worker was sent to interview the girl about her choice. The hospital said it would take legal action if they didn't bring Hannah to hospital, said her mother, Kirsty Jones. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN CONVERSATION

Monia Mazigh & Maher Arar with Anna Maria Tremonti

Wednesday, November 12th, 7pm
Indigo Eaton Centre



Monia Mazigh's fight to free her husband, **Maher Arar**, from a Syrian jail is a remarkable story of personal courage.

Join us for this very special on-stage event as the CBC's **Anna Maria Tremonti** interviews both Dr. Mazigh and Mr. Arar.

Book signing to follow.

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Comment & Views

Comment

Addressing an elephant

Various failures at national reconciliation have left us comatose

TheWestView

Paul Sullivan
Journalist & media consultant

A lot of ink has been spilt on the failure of the recent Canadian election to match the sizzle of the U.S. presidential race.

The consensus seems to be: The U.S. election was historic; the Canadian election was, at best, histrionic. And if you watched the candidates all screeching at each other in that ridiculous travesty of a televised debate, you'd have a hard time disagreeing.

But as I watch Stephen Harper govern the nation virtually by default, I think it's time to address the elephant in the room. Simply put, the U.S. election was so uplifting because the American people united behind Barack Obama, if only for a brief, shining moment.

Here in Canada, the Bloc Québécois increased its number of seats to 49 from 48.

I mean, really, what kind of country allows a separatist party to hold the balance of power? In other countries, separatists meet at night in clandestine locations, identifying each other by the secret handshake. Here, they put up lawn signs and get fat pensions funded by the very taxpayers they repudiate.

They're not even polite about it.

No matter that Stephen Harper has bestowed nation status on the people of Quebec without any of the attendant responsibility — I can only assume chief Blochead Gilles Duceppe will continue his truculent demands long after the only establishments flying the Canadian flag in Quebec are the hotels.

Gilles Duceppe

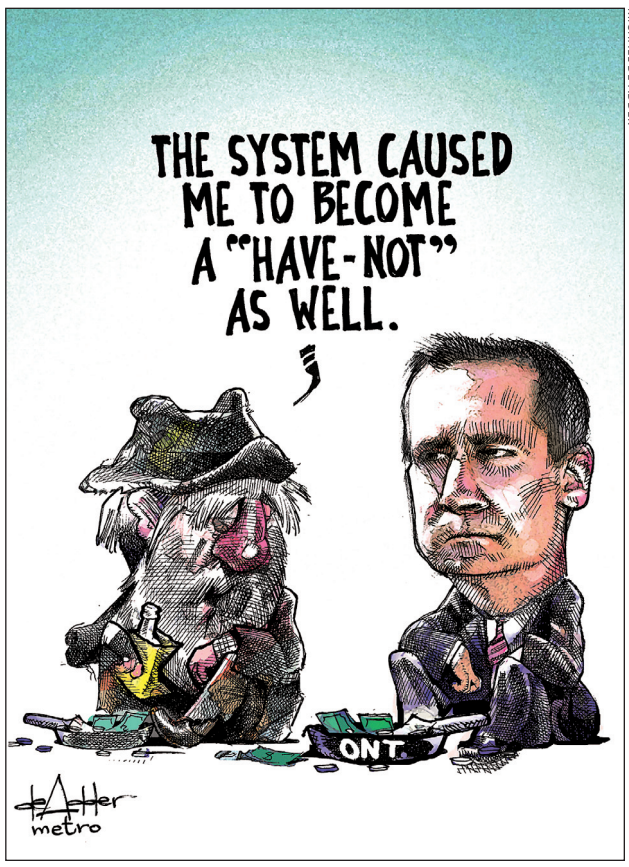
Don't get me wrong. I'm not opposed to Quebec sovereignty if that is the will of the people. But in my darker moments, I suspect I'm more willing to see Quebec fly on its own than Gilles Duceppe and Pauline Marois (his, uh, provincial counterpart) combined.

Seriously, are you really surprised by the decline in the popular vote? Do we really expect robust voter enthusiasm when year in, year out, the very party that wants to break the country in half controls the balance of power? How can we move forward as a nation when the representatives of a huge part of the nation are determined to go the other way?

My apologies for bringing up the old bugaboo of national unity. But our various failures at national reconciliation have made us comatose, which appears to be the ideal condition for the permanent infestation of Parliament by the Bloc Québécois, a daily reminder that any enthusiasm we have for Canada is misplaced, jejune, just plain wrong.

I yearn for a Barack Obama who can bring us all together. But failing that, at the very least, I hope that the prime minister of Canada will finally begin to stand up to the presence — in his own Parliament — that thrives on keeping us apart.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist, owner of Sullivan Media consulting, and editor-in-chief of Orato.com, the citizen news website.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Word on the street: In tough economic times, what's the one luxury you can't give up?

Victoria Campos
age 18, Toronto

A: I'd say shoes. It's not that they're the most important thing to me, it's just I feel like a nice pair of shoes completes an outfit.

Roop Gill
age 19, Mississauga

A: I think my cellphone will definitely be the one luxury I can't give up. Though it's sort of borderline between luxury and necessity, that's my connection for social life.

Carolyn Bennett
age 28, Toronto

A: The LCBO. It's a sad answer but it's true. Because wine helps you relax, particularly in tough economic times and helps you unwind.

Monica Prosser
age 20, Ottawa

A: Coffee. It's the one thing that makes me happiest in the morning.

Lisa Per
age 36, Vancouver

A: Fresh organic food. I would keep spending my money on fresh food and vegetables. Choosing a healthier option, even if it's more expensive, it's worth it.

metro life panel

Metro Life Panel

Results from the Canadian Metro Life Panel:

Daily cup of coffee: 19%
Dining out: 12.4%
Driving: 30.2%
Entertainment (movies, going out): 16.5%
Other: 10.9%
None of the above: 11.1%

Letters

Nicholas J. Varmazis

Re: In memory of duty done (Nov. 7)

I am a World War II veteran and a member of the Royal Canadian Legion. I read Rick McGinnis' article about Remembrance Day and found the story interesting and moving.

He wrote, however, at one point, when his father joined, only Britain and the Commonwealth countries were fighting the Axis powers. This is not true. Greece was on the side of the Allies at that time, fighting the invading Italians and winning.

Actually, this was the first land victory for the Allies in World War II.

John Cartwright, TORONTO

Re: The answer is blowin' in the wind (Nov. 10)

Drs. Suzuki and Faisal are right on the money. The main reason Canadians have not yet done anything significant to stop climate change is political will.

Governments are supposed to represent the will of us — the people who get to elect them — in the way we choose to organize ourselves as a society.

Why is this important? Because there are currently two major problems worrying Canadians: The rapid disappearance of good jobs that are the backbone of a decent quality of life, and global warming with its frightening changes to our natural environment.

Stopping climate change is the crisis of our time and we have a choice. We have to start now to do the work that should have begun 10 years ago — demanding that governments stop subsidizing polluting energy and instead invest in renewable energy infrastructure. It's not good enough to sit back and watch as the good jobs continue to disappear while others prepare their economies for the 21st century.

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Price of oil falls below $60 a barrel
Oil prices hit a 20-month low yesterday, dipping below $60 a barrel, as Wall Street offered yet more evidence that consumers have gone into hiding. Oil prices fell despite signs that OPEC members are going ahead with production cuts. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

DOLLAR
The Canadian dollar did not trade yesterday. Banks were closed for Remembrance Day.

OIL
$59.33 US
$3.08

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

100,000 jobs to be lost, report says

Canadians are in store for a harsh winter of economic news with substantial job losses mounting as recessionary times take hold, the Global Insight forecasting firm says.

Managing director Dale Orr says the country will lose 100,000 jobs in the first three months of 2009 and believes Canada has already entered the first recession in 17 years.

Orr says the current October-December period will see the economy shrink 1.4 per cent on an annualized basis, with a further 1.2 per cent retreat occurring in the first quarter of 2009. For the next year as whole, Orr says the economy will average zero growth.

Orr said job losses will likely occur in the beleaguered auto sector and forestry but also in the construction trade as house starts fall, and tourism and the financial services sector in response to the crisis in stock markets.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. homeowners offered new plan

MELTDOWN Once again, the U.S. government has offered a plan to help troubled homeowners. But critics say it doesn't go far enough. Under the plan, borrowers would get reduced interest rates or longer loan terms to make their payments more affordable. But the plan focuses on loans Fannie and Freddie own or guarantee. They represent only 20 per cent of delinquent loans.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Less holiday cheer

40% of Canadians plan to tighten their belts

Canadians plan to spend less this holiday season, especially in Toronto, according to a survey.

While most consumers plan to spend about the same as they did last year, 40 per cent plan to spend less, a survey for consulting firm Deloitte & Touche shows. That's up from 25 per cent a year ago. In Toronto, the figure is even higher, with 46 per cent saying they would spend less this year, said the study released yesterday.

Most shoppers will be looking for bargains and home essentials, the study also found.

"Consumers always spend more than they intend during the holiday season."
Brent Houlden

Brent Houlden, a retail partner, at Deloitte & Touche, found reason for optimism in the results.

"Consumers always spend more than they intend during the holiday season, and with Canadians currently enjoying lower gas prices they'll have a little more cash in their wallets. But Canadian retailers will have to work hard to earn that holiday spending, as consumers will be scanning for value and hunting for bargains."

Fewer will be shopping across the border, now that the loonie has fallen back below the U.S. greenback. Only 41 per cent plan to do some cross-border shopping, down from 64 per cent at this time last year.

Few consumers have a "must-have" gift on their list.

Online shopping will be less popular than in previous years, with 63 per cent of Canadians saying they don't plan to buy anything online. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In brief

MORE GM LAYOFFS General Motors Corp. said it plans to lay off another 1,900 factory workers at parts stamping, engine and transmission factories in North America as it cuts expenses to deal with a worsening cash crisis. The largest automaker in the United States said the layoffs are a result of declining sales. Spokesman Tony Sapienza said the cuts are in addition to 3,600 factory layoffs announced on Friday, bringing the total announced in the past week to 5,500.

ELITE CLUB The Yellowstone Club, an exclusive mountain retreat for the ultra-rich, has filed for bankruptcy protection after failing to secure new financing. The gated, millionaires-only club in Montana's Gallatin Mountains boasts a private ski hill and golf course. Opened in 1999, it counts former U.S. vice-president Dan Quayle and Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates among its 340 members.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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St. Pierre to fight The Prodigy

Canadian Georges St. Pierre will defend his UFC welterweight championship against lightweight champion B.J. (The Prodigy) Penn at UFC 94 on Jan. 31 in Las Vegas, the UFC confirmed yesterday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Lincecum takes NL Cy Young

The San Francisco Giants' Tim Lincecum won the National League Cy Young Award by a comfortable margin yesterday, taking home pitching's highest honour in only his second major league season. The 24-year-old right-hander was 18-5 with a 2.62 ERA and a major league-best 265 strikeouts in 2008.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Staal has third period hat trick

NHL Jordan Staal had a hat trick in the third period and set up Ruslan Fedotenko's winning goal with 1:11 in overtime last night, lifting Pittsburgh to a comeback win over the Red Wings in a Stanley Cup Finals rematch.

Staal set up the overtime goal by lifting Pavel Datsyuk's stick from behind, snagging the puck away and setting up Fedotenko's one-timer with a perfect pass to the right circle.

Hargreaves done for season

SOCCER Manchester United midfielder Owen Hargreaves has been ruled out for the rest of the season after an operation on his right knee with further surgery on his left knee to follow. United said Tuesday that the England international, who has been hampered by the injury for more than a year, flew to Colorado to meet noted sports injuries expert Dr. Richard Steadman. The versatile Calgary-born midfielder, who moved to United from Bayern Munich in July of last year, played on the successful Champions League final lineup last season and also helped the Red Devils win the Premier League title for the second year in a row.

Hargreaves

Indians legend Score dies

BASEBALL Herb Score, the Cleveland Indians pitcher and former broadcaster, died at age 75 yesterday. Score died at his home in Rocky River, Ohio, the team said in a statement. He had been in a wheelchair since suffering a stroke in 2002, four years after he was seriously injured in a car accident. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cammalleri loving Calgary

But could current Flame be on the Leafs' radar next year?

He's blossomed into a point-a-game forward, he's earning $3.6 million this year with the Calgary Flames, and by all accounts, Richmond Hill native Mike Cammalleri is worth every penny.

"I just think he's really crafty with the puck," said Flames linemate Rene Bourque. "He sees things other guys don't. He likes to turn up a lot, let the play develop. The way he passes the puck and sees the game are his best abilities."

Cammalleri missed last night's game against the Maple Leafs — a shame for him since he had this date circled on the calendar because he was looking forward to playing against his home-town team.

The former L.A. King has only played Toronto twice in his career, due to quirks of the schedule and various injuries and ailments.

At 5-9, 185 pounds, Cammalleri was a second-round pick of the Los Angeles Kings in 2001. He played his minor hockey with the Toronto Jr. Red Wings, graduated high school early and enrolled at the University of Michigan, playing for ex-NHLer Red Berenson.

"He was always a prolific offensive player, even as a kid," said Berenson. "He played way ahead of his age group. He graduated from high school early and came to Michigan as a 17-year-old.

"Even then he was a skilled offensive player that found a way to be productive even when he was younger."

Lots of NHLers, including current Leaf Mike Van Ryn, came out of Berenson's Wolverines program. Most stay till they graduate. After three years, Cammalleri couldn't resist the call to the NHL, and signed with the Kings.

Cammalleri struggled out of the gate as a pro. He got into 28 NHL games his first season (2002-03), 31 his second. It wasn't until 2006-07 that he began to fulfill his potential, with 80 points in 81 games.

Cammalleri has four goals and 10 assists this season.

For a complete recap of last night's Maple Leafs game in Calgary, visit us online at www.metronews.ca/sports.

He took a step back last year, due to injuries. Now heading toward unrestricted free agency on July 1, 2009, the Kings chose to ship him to Calgary for the Flames first-round pick. Cammalleri has more than fitting the void left vacant when the Flames traded Alex Tanguay to Montreal.

He went into last night's game second in team scoring, with 14 points in 16 games.

"I didn't know what to expect (of Cammalleri), but he's played very well for us," said Flames coach Mike Keenan. "Hes' been an energetic player with some skill. An opportunistic player. He's a good for us on the power play. He handles the puck well. He makes things happen. He's been able to put up numbers because of his skill."

The worry around Calgary is Cammalleri will be happy to test the free-agent market, perhaps even with an eye to returning to his hometown to play for the Maple Leafs.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SCOREBOARD

NHL

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS
Montreal 4 Ottawa 0
Philadelphia 3 N.Y. Islanders 1
Pittsburgh 7 Detroit 6 (OT)
TORONTO at Calgary
Dallas at Los Angeles
Nashville at San Jose

TONIGHT'S GAMES
St. Louis at Buffalo
N.Y. Rangers at New Jersey
Washington at Carolina
Phoenix at Columbus
Tampa Bay at Florida
Boston at Chicago
Colorado at Vancouver

TOMORROW'S GAMES
TORONTO at Edmonton
Montreal at Boston
N.Y. Islanders at Ottawa
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh
Detroit at Tampa Bay
Phoenix at Minnesota
Los Angeles at Dallas
Calgary at San Jose

NBA

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS
Cleveland 99 Milwaukee 93
Denver 88 Charlotte 80
Utah 93 Philadelphia 80
Atlanta at Chicago
New York at San Antonio
L.A. Lakers at Dallas
Detroit at Sacramento
Minnesota at Golden State

TONIGHT'S GAMES
Philadelphia at **TORONTO**
Indiana at New Jersey
Atlanta at Boston
Utah at Washington
New York at Memphis
Orlando at Oklahoma City
San Antonio at Milwaukee
Portland at Miami
L.A. Lakers at New Orleans
Houston at Phoenix
Sacramento at L.A. Clippers

NFL

STANDINGS
AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT
New England	6	3	0	.667
N.Y. Jets	6	3	0	.667
Miami	5	4	0	.556
Buffalo	5	4	0	.556

SOUTH DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT
Tennessee	9	0	0	1.000
Indianapolis	5	4	0	.556
Jacksonville	4	5	0	.444
Houston	3	6	0	.333

NORTH DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT
Pittsburgh	6	3	0	.667
Baltimore	6	3	0	.667
Cleveland	3	6	0	.333
Cincinnati	1	8	0	.111

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT
Denver	5	4	0	.556
San Diego	4	5	0	.444
Oakland	2	7	0	.222
Kansas City	1	8	0	.111

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT
N.Y. Giants	8	1	0	.889
Washington	6	3	0	.667
Dallas	5	4	0	.556
Philadelphia	5	4	0	.556

SOUTH DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT
Carolina	7	2	0	.778
Tampa Bay	6	3	0	.667
Atlanta	6	3	0	.667
New Orleans	4	5	0	.444

NORTH DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT
Chicago	5	4	0	.556
Minnesota	5	4	0	.556
Green Bay	4	5	0	.444
Detroit	0	9	0	.000

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT
Arizona	6	3	0	.667
Seattle	2	7	0	.222
San Francisco	2	7	0	.222
St. Louis	2	7	0	.222

MONDAY'S RESULT
Arizona 29 San Francisco 24

WEEK 11
TOMORROW'S GAME
N.Y. Jets at New England
SUNDAY'S GAMES
Denver at Atlanta
Oakland at Miami
Chicago at Green Bay
Baltimore at N.Y. Giants
Houston at Indianapolis
Detroit at Carolina
New Orleans at Kansas City
Philadelphia at Cincinnati
Minnesota at Tampa Bay
Arizona at Seattle
St. Louis at San Francisco
San Diego at Pittsburgh
Tennessee at Jacksonville
Dallas at Washington
MONDAY NOV. 17 GAME
Cleveland at Buffalo

NHL RESULT

Senators 0 Canadiens 4

THE CANADIAN PRESS/RYAN REMIORZ

The Canadiens' Carey Price stops Daniel Alfredsson last night. Price posted his fourth career shutout as the Habs blanked Ottawa 4-0.

MIKE BEASLEY
for Metro Canada

THE SKINNY: The Montreal Canadiens were led by a three goal night by Christopher Higgins and a shutout performance by goaltender Carey Price as the Habs knocked off the Ottawa Senators 4-0.

THE QUOTE: **"It was our best game this year and probably our best performance in two years,"** said Montreal head coach Guy Carbonneau. **"We were focused, motivated and played with enthusiasm all night."**

THE DOUGHNUT: Price was perfect, stopping 28 Ottawa shots as he earned his first shutout of the season and fourth of his young NHL career. Price has back to back shutouts over Ottawa dating back to the last season.

THE NAIL IN OTTAWA'S COFFIN: Montreal scored twice in a span of 1:28 in the second period to triple their lead to 3-0. Higgins notched his second of the evening at 14:11 with Guillaume Latendresse potting one 88 seconds later.

THE HAT TRICK: Higgins picked up his first three goal game as he scored the first, second and fourth markers for the Habs.

Four Raptors named to NBA all-star ballot
Chris Bosh, Jermaine O'Neal, Jose Calderon and Anthony Parker are all on the ballot. The game will be held in Phoenix Feb. 15. METRO NEWS SERVICES

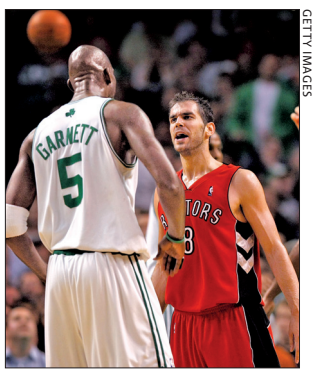
Raps learning from mistakes

All mistakes are not created equal. While fully admitting that inopportune gaffes pop up every now and then — some costly enough that they affect the outcome of games — the Raptors also fully admit they're OK with the mistakes as long as they don't become habits.

And so far, they say, they haven't and, in the vernacular of schools these days, they are more "learning experiences" than failures.

"It's different things and that's encouraging about the whole situation," Chris Bosh said yesterday. "It's not the same mistakes over and over."

Coach Sam Mitchell agrees the mistakes are popping up but they are correctable through practice and experience. But he won't go as far as pointing to specifics, especially in light of Monday's loss in Boston when Paul Pierce exploded for 24 points in the final quarter of a comeback Celtics' win.


GETTY IMAGES
Jose Calderon has words with Kevin Garnett during Monday's loss in Boston.

"We made some mistakes that had nothing to do with Jason (Kapono, the primary defender on Pierce), where we were supposed to do other things that guys didn't do," said Mitchell.

Bosh was a bit more forthcoming, although he limited his discussion to himself while defending his coach.

"It's just recognizing personnel," said the power forward. "If we know we have a non-shooter, we can help a little bit more. It's just knowing things that (Mitchell) can't help us with, that he can't teach us how to do while we're out there."

It wasn't even for the untrained eye to pick out some of the mistakes.

Point guard Jose Calderon didn't do enough offensively to force the issue by getting into the paint, there were slow defensive rotations and blown assignments when the Celtics got in the key and Bosh admitted he could have been more assertive offensively in the fourth quarter, at the very least moving Kevin Garnett to different spots on the court.

Bosh not getting a basket in the fourth quarter of a tight game has a lot to do with it.

"That goes back to what I've been saying all along, I have to do a better job of imposing my will, no matter what the defence is doing," he said. "I have to get to the ball and get to where I'm most effective on the court.

"I'll make sure that I take that into mind the next time and I'll know what to do." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Parker may play

Pittsburgh Steelers running back Willie Parker will return to practice today, and coach Mike Tomlin is optimistic Parker will play Sunday against the San Diego Chargers. Parker has played only once since spraining his knee Sept. 21 in Philadelphia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Benevides shovelling off to Toronto?

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

A defensive co-ordinator who literally carries a shovel with him at team meetings in B.C. is a top candidate to become the new head coach of the Toronto Argonauts.

In fact, sources tell Metro that, if Michael (Pinball) Clemons rejects ownership's wish for him to leave the Argos' presidential office and return as head coach, Lions defensive co-ordinator Mike Benevides would be the club's leading choice. Benevides has served as an assistant coach in the CFL for the past nine seasons. This is his first season as the Lions' defensive co-ordinator and his unit has excelled, boasting seven divisional all-stars. The defence suffocated its opponents while upsetting the Roughriders at last Saturday's Western semi-final, and Saskatchewan quarterback Michael Bishop wound up being cut this week.

Should the Lions upset the Calgary Stampeders in the Western final this Saturday — B.C. is a six-point underdog — Benevides would become an even hotter commodity. The Stamps, after all, feature an explosive offence, including the CFL's most productive running back (Joffrey Reynolds) and most productive receiver (Ken-Yon Rambo).

Benevides is a Toronto native, incidentally. He studied business at York University, as did Argos co-owner David Cynamon. Benvides also is a workaholic, as he told interviewer Christie Buono (yes, the daughter of Lions head coach Wally Buono) at B.C.Lions.comTV. He said he arrives at the Lions' headquarters daily at 3 a.m. and works till about 7 p.m.

Oh, and about the shovel. Sources say he keeps it handy to remind his players they need to keep digging. Call it a motivational tool, I guess.

Not a stretch

- A new University of Nevada study debunks traditional views about stretching, claiming certain stretches before exercising may actually reduce performance and safety instead of enhancing them. For details, visit rehabpub.com.

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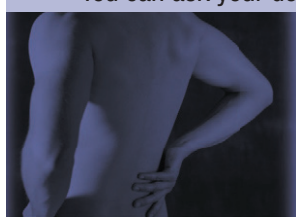

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DBS: Licensed to thrill

Metro's global motoring editor lets it rip with Bond's new ride

EMMA E FORREST
Metro World News

Emma E Forrest test drives the Aston-Martin DBS, the very same car driven by Daniel Craig in the latest Bond movie Quantum of Solace.

MARK OBSTFELD/METRO WORLD NEWS

Unfortunately there are no rocket launchers in the new James Bond car. The Aston Martin DBS that Bond drives in Quantum of Solace, (in Quantum Silver, of course), doesn't even have a defibrillator hidden in the glovebox like the last model.

In fact, the nearest thing to a Bond gadget are the B&O speakers that emerge from the dash when you start the ignition. Even the Jaeger-LeCoultre watch that remotely turns on the lights and unlocks the car is available to all real-world DBS owners.

Still, you can live without an ejector seat when the car's this fabulous. Several stunt Astons were trashed during the chase sequences for Quantum, but this DBS is one of just three "hero" cars that were kept intact.

To fire it up, you need to engage what Aston calls the "emotion control unit." Sounds pretentious, but that's what you're doing — plug this stainless steel and sapphire starter fob into the dash and your heart jumps as it lets rip a mighty, throaty roar.

To remind you of your sophisticated choice of vehicle, "beauty power soul" appears on the speedometer as the engine starts to rumble.

And while the handcrafted interior, complete with piano black leather and solid aluminum is alluring, really it's the engine that's the star here.

With its menacing face and athletic rear haunches, this elegant car looks both macho and sophisticated, and the performance is the same.

A gentle nudge and James Bond's car is launching me through the country roads around Aston's factory in central England and with the close gears, I'm eagerly testing the car's cornering, which, of course, is immaculate. This car might look and feel heavy, but it's agile, and in its sports mode, it stiffens up like an adrenaline-pumping panther ready to go in for the kill.

Which is basically what the car does on command. With acceleration like this it's easy to see why one of the Quantum of Solace stuntmen ended up taking off into Lake Garda in one of these cars.

You can't buy this car, of course, but you can own your own DBS if you want to drive like James Bond. Just don't forget that MI6 won't be picking up your bill if you dent it.

Aston Martin DBS

Price: from $293,400
0-100 kmph: 4.3 sec
Top speed: 307 km/h
Engine: 6 litre, V12
Fuel Consumption: 16.4 l/100 km

Top 3 Bond cars

Aston Martin DB5, Goldfinger, 1964
Features ejector seat, revolving licence plates, slasher hubcaps, machine-guns behind the headlights.

Lotus Esprit, The Spy Who Loved Me, 1977
Features missiles, torpedoes, underwater driving mode.

Aston Martin V8 Volante, The Living Daylights, 1987
Takes on the Russians with missile launcher, rockets, hubcap-concealed laser and retractable tire spikes.

It's Ford Ka to Bond girl's rescue

FORD If James Bond can power it up with an Aston Martin DBS in the latest 007 instalment Quantum of Solace, why should the Bond girl be left behind? Camille, played by Olga Kurylenko, will be seen driving the new Europe-only Ford Ka in the movie. In fact, Ford hopes the Ka will attract the "independent-spirited, modern young woman," not unlike Camille in Solace.

Olga Kurylenko

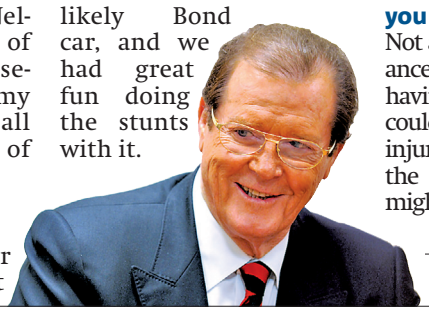
METRO NEW SERVICES

'They thought I might smash up the cars:' Moore

007 veteran. Pilot of the infamous underwater Lotus Esprit. Sir Roger Moore reveals his favourite James Bond car moments.

Favourite Bond car scene?
The Lotus Esprit diving into the ocean, because the audience thought we were goners. But it converted into the wonderful underwater car, Wet Nellie, and became one of the most famous sequences in any of my Bond films. It was all trickery and magic, of course.

Favourite Bond car?
The 2CV in For Your Eyes Only, because it seemed like such an unlikely Bond car, and we had great fun doing the stunts with it.



Sir Roger Moore

How much driving did you do?
Not a great deal, as the insurance companies insisted on having stunt drivers as they couldn't afford for me to get injured — or more close to the truth, they thought I might smash up the cars! I did a little driving where Bond had to glide into a frame, but otherwise it was on low loaders or stunt drivers.

What do you drive?
A Mercedes, a Volvo 4x4 for the snow and a mark 1 Golf Cabriolet for hopping around Monte Carlo.

EMMA E FORREST/
METRO WORLD NEWS

The man with the cool cars

Becoming **Bond**

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

There has been a James Bond car as long as there's been a James Bond. While it took three movies for 007 to get handed the keys to his tricked out Aston Martin DB5 with the machine guns and ejector seat, Ian Fleming had a scene in the very first Bond book, Casino Royale, that reads like a stirring treatment for a pulse-pounding movie car chase.

The most heartbreaking moment in the recent movie version of Casino Royale wasn't the death of Bond's true love, Vesper Lynd, but a scene where Bond's Aston Martin DBS V12, the latest successor to the DB5, goes ass over teakettle on a deserted road, flipping seven times before coming to a rest in a crumpled heap. I can't help but remember that scene now as I stare at a brand-new DBS sitting in the showroom at Grand Touring Automobiles, the first one I've seen in real life.

Dean Jordan has been selling Aston Martins for years, and recalls doing the auto show circuit the year after James Bond was reunited with Aston-Martin when Pierce Brosnan got behind the wheel of a Volante and a Vanquish in Die Another Day.

"All the kids know who you are — it's a very good way of advertising you as a company. As a product placement it's brilliant. James Bond has always been synonymous with Aston, so it's only appropriate that he drives one. It's been very good for us over the years."

Like the other 6,500 Aston Martins produced a year, the DBS is completely handmade, a luxury auto built around a race car's guts, and it has the compact closeness of a real sports car, enveloping you in the driver's seat without making you feel cramped. The DBS I'm sitting in — just one of five Dean sells a year — will cost you $300,000 plus taxes, but it won't take car seats, so I tell him that's the deal breaker.

PHOTO BY DEAN JORDAN

Metro writer Rick McGinnis checks out an Aston Martin DBS in the showroom at Grand Touring Automobiles in Toronto.

Like the Aston Martin, the Bentley, which Bond Bond pursued Le Chiffre in Casino Royale, is a handmade car, loaded with luxury options, and probably a bit overpowered for most of its buyers.

"A lot of the clients who drive them want to drive it because it's a Bentley," says John Koutoulakis, a Bentley salesman at Grand Touring. "They don't care how fast the car will go, even though the cars will go 200 miles per hour or more. They don't care that it's an all-wheel drive vehicle. They care about the presence and the name."

If Bond were in the market for a runabout, he tells me, he'd be buying a GT Speed, the souped-up version of their marquee two-door model. Inside, it feels like a five-star hotel room, all custom leather, wood and metal, but the 600-horsepower engine can do over 200 mph. The starting price for a 2008 model is $220,000, but with options it will end up costing around $300,000, though Koutoulakis says they have flexible leasing options. Car seat anchors, he says, are standard.

We walk out onto the lot and he opens the door to a silvery white GT, telling me he'll take the wheel for a few blocks, then let me drive it back. I'm probably blushing when I tell him that I don't have a licence — I don't even know how to drive — and he tactfully conceals what I can only call a look of dismay.

My quest to become Bond, hobbled as it was, ends in a final, resounding humiliation, but not before I let Koutoulakis open up the engine and lunge gracefully into traffic with me in the passenger seat.

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A truck you can trust

The Toyota Tacoma may become your best friend

PHILIPPE CROWE
for Metro Canada

Toyota's Tacoma was given the nickname "Taco" by my colleagues shortly after arriving in our long-term fleet — a testament to how quickly Taco made friends. Like an easy-going buddy, a longtime comrade, it was always there, ready to help for any task at hand.

Our Tacoma was powered by a 4.0-litre, 24-valve, DOHC V6, with Variable Valve Timing with Intelligence (VVT-i) technology. Output sat at 236 hp at 5,200 rpm and 266 lb-ft of torque at 4,000 rpm, put to the ground through a five-speed automatic gearbox and a robust four-wheel drive system. In a traditional fashion, this 4WD setup offered the selection of 2-HI, 4-HI and 4-LOW electronically at the flick of a switch.

In a previous review, staffer Bradley Horn noted: "There's more than enough grunt here, though we're anxious to see how our Toyota performs with a loaded cargo box."

It performed.

Renovating a house between the middle of April and the end of May allowed me to put this strong hauler to the test. Aside from towing, the Tacoma saw all the uses one expects of a machine with a cargo bed in back.

The Taco's V6 has the power needed to more than adequately carry out any of our staff's tasks, with the added benefit of requiring far less fuel than V8-powered competitors.

PHILIPPE CROWE/FOR METRO CANADA

Like an easy-going buddy, a longtime comrade, the Toyota Tacoma is always there, ready to help for any task at hand.

Parking this long truck was a lot easier than one might think, helped equally by the great view out the back, the Toyota's narrow design, and, most importantly, the wonderfully tight turning radius.

We sang the praise of the interior at length in previous instalments. Lots of useful cubbyholes, wonderful seats and a build quality that has all of us convinced this will not be a rattle trap after a few years of ownership — be they tough years or not.

Toyota's midsize Tacoma pickup design has existed and been improved on continuously for decades and it shows in the near perfection of this generation's execution. But a few details were lacking in our truck, which could easily be improved upon. Really, these are little nitpicks, but the sliding rear window would benefit from an electric mechanism so the driver can open and close it while driving. As mentioned in our last instalment, a pair of D-shaped hooks by the cab end of the box, mirroring the ones close to the tailgate, would be very useful; the black material for the top of the door panel should be more nick-resistant, and finally, an even bigger gas tank — as an option if needed — would be a big plus. The standard 80-litre one is suitable, but an extra 20 litres or more would have been welcomed for long distance cruising.

Our mix of city and highway driving produced overall fuel economy numbers averaging between 13.2 and 14.5 L/100 km. Our final consumption figure over the 11,998 kilometres we put on the Tacoma (it came to us with 1,012 km on the odo) averaged 13.8 L/100 km.

Will we miss it? I do already. The Tacoma's combination of overall practicality and ease of use, as well as the comfort of the cabin makes this a great all-around vehicle. You just need that myriad of practical uses we found for the pickup to justify its slightly higher fuel expenses.

2008 Toyota Tacoma

Type: Truck
Price: $40,470
Engine: 4.0-litre, 24-valve DOHC V6
HP: 236

Highlights

- Practical
- Quality interior
- Great visibility

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– *Canadian Real Estate*, March-April, 2008

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New vision for the Ford Focus

LORNE DRURY
for Metro Canada

Ford has recently announced a new vision for the company, with an emphasis on smaller vehicles as the large car/SUV market is drying up as quickly as gas prices have risen. This has been particularly true south of the border.

Ford's bread and butter models over the years have been the F-150 pickup and the Explorer sport utility. Now, sales of those two vehicles have taken a nose dive and the focus, pardon the pun, is now firmly on the one small car on the Ford menu, the Focus compact.

Redesigned for 2008, the Focus has been selling quite briskly of late. In fact, sales of the Focus were up 19 per cent in Canada during the month of June.

While not totally new for 2008, the Focus has undergone a major refresh and a reduction in body styles available. Gone are the three- and five-door hatchbacks and the Focus wagon, leaving just a two-door coupe and four-door sedan.

The 2008 Ford Focus marks the second generation of a car that debuted in 1999 and captured both North American and Canadian Car of the Year honours in 2000.

Ford has hoped for big things from this 2008 model, much like when the Focus first hit the market in 1999. It was named both North American and Canadian Car of the Year. Since then, the Focus has been mostly an afterthought for buyers who have flocked to the Honda Civic, Toyota Corolla and the Mazda3.

Among the changes to the Focus is a bolder exterior look. When compared with many of its competitors in the compact class, however, it still falls short in the looks department. Even cars from the Ford family like the Mazda3 have a much more exciting exterior appeal.

That said, in many ways the new Focus is much improved over the past model. The interior is roomy, comfortable and relatively quiet. New style seats and instrument panel add an updated look to the cabin as does the ice blue lighting on the instrument cluster, centre console, steering wheel and door lock and window switches.

However, the biggest innovation for 2008 has to be the Sync system, developed by Microsoft and exclusive to Ford.

It is a fully integrated, voice-activated communications and entertainment system for mobile phones and digital music players. With it, users can operate their cellphone or music player using either voice commands or the vehicle's steering wheel or radio controls.

The Focus comes in three trim levels for 2008 — S, SE and SES.

Power for the Focus comes from a 140-hp 2.0-litre Duratec DOHC inline four-cylinder engine. Power is up marginally thanks to a new air intake system and cooling system, both of which improve efficiency.

Overall, the car is 45 kilograms (100 pounds) lighter than the 2007 model, also helping performance. Meanwhile, fuel economy is rated at 8.5L/100 km (33 mpg) city and 5.7L/100 km (50 mpg) highway.

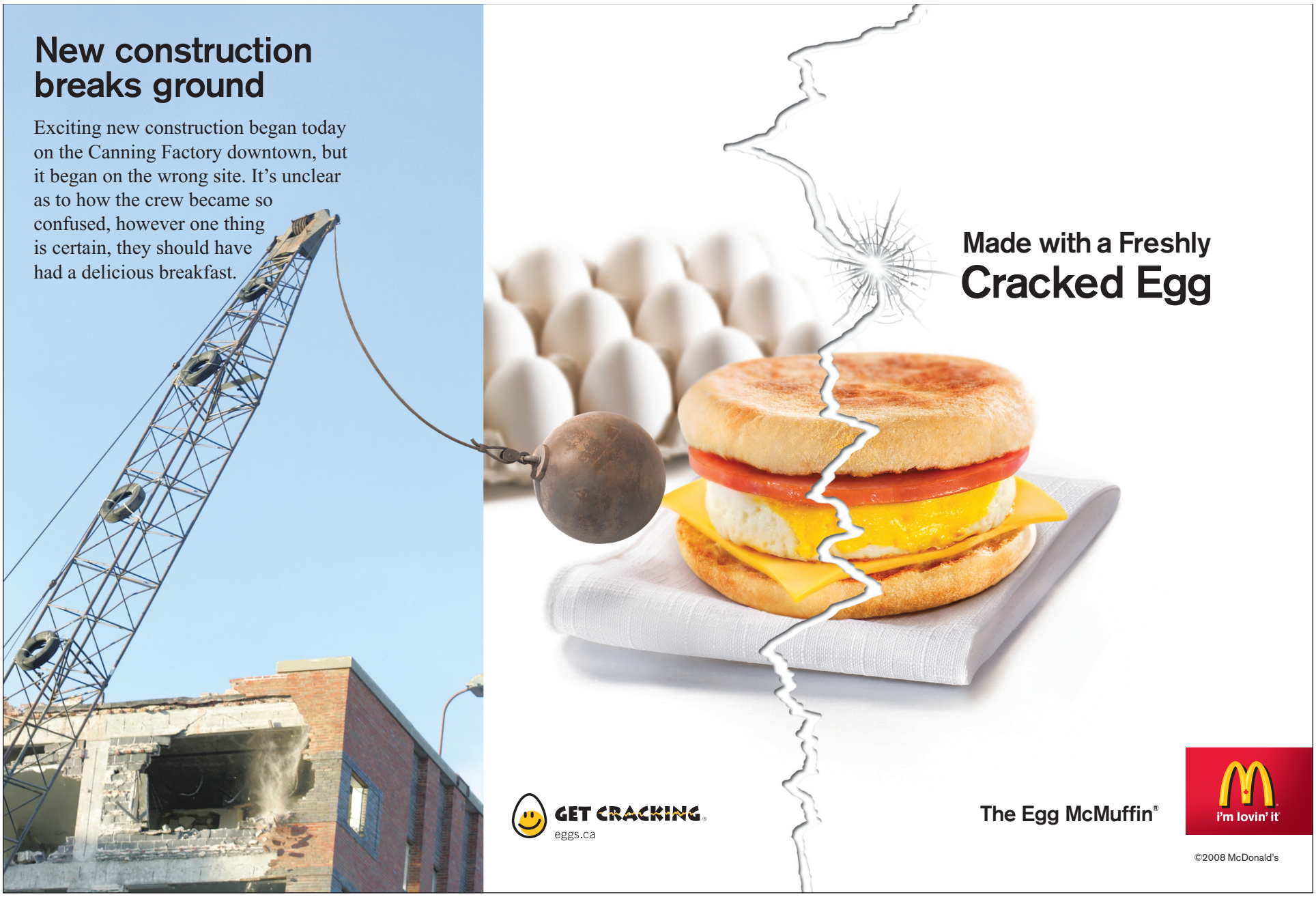
On the road, the Focus responds eagerly when you touch the throttle. The ride is smooth and quiet, steering is responsive and all controls are well placed and easy to use.

2008 Ford Focus

Type: Four-door sedan/two-door coupe
Price: $15,999, as tested $25,914
Engine: 2.0L DOHC inline four-cylinder
HP: 140

Highlights

- Fuel efficient
- Bolder design
- More spacious inside



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◊ Approximate distance based on highway mileage

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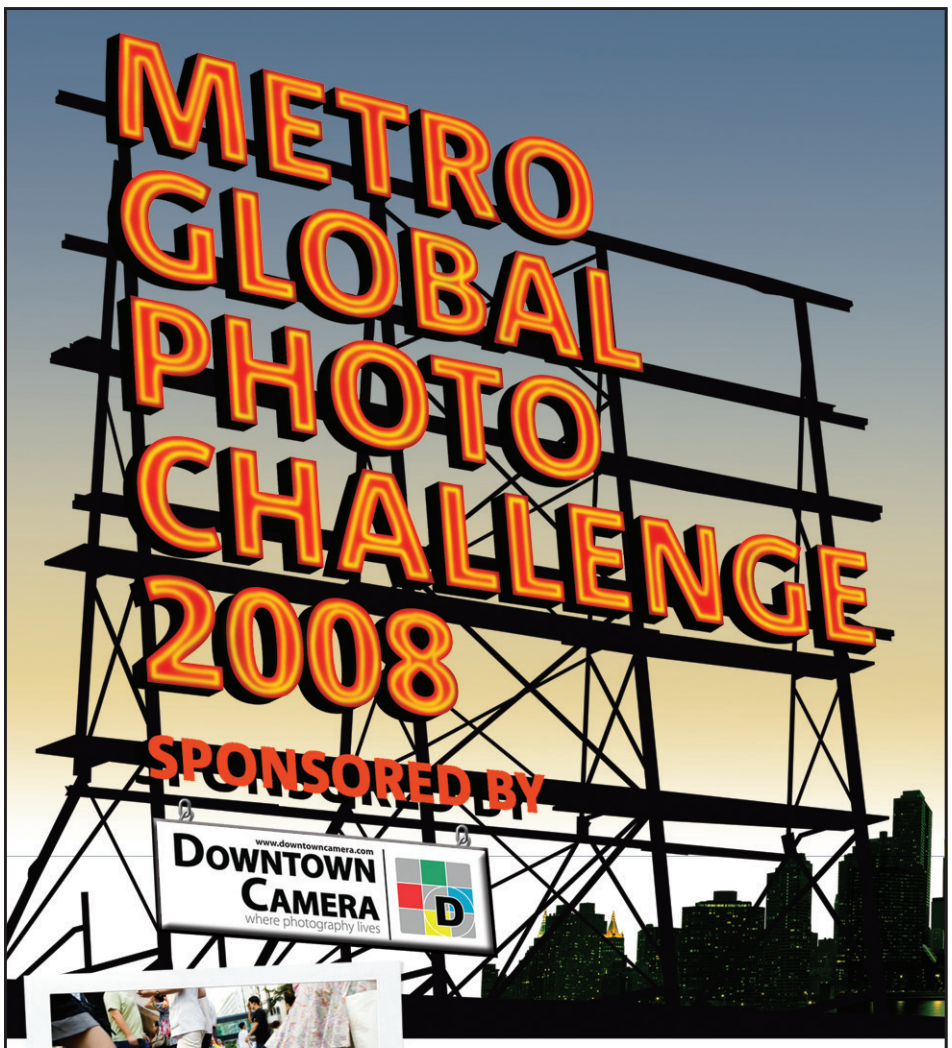
HONDA

#Limited time lease offers based on new 2009 Honda models. Lease example based on 2009 Civic Sedan DX, model FA1529EX, available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. £3.9% lease APR for 48 months. Monthly payment is $198.01with $2,360.00 down payment or equivalent trade, $1,310 freight and PDI, first monthly payment and $0 security deposit due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $13,406.86. Taxes, license, insurance and registration are extra. 96,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. Retailer may lease for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. †Limited time financing offers based on new 2009 Honda models. Finance example based on new 2009 Civic Sedan DX, model FA1529EX available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. ‡MSRP is $16,990, plus $1,310 freight and PDI, financed at 1.9% APR equals $523.36 per month for 36 months. Cost of borrowing is $540.98 for a total obligation of $18,840.98. Taxes, license, insurance and registration are extra. Retailer may sell for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. ‡MSRP is $14,980 for a new 2009 Fit DX, model GE8729E. $1,310 freight and PDI, license, insurance, registration and taxes are extra. MSRP of Fit Sport model shown, model GE8789E is $19,280. Retailer may sell for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. #/£/†Offers valid from November 1st, 2008 through December 1st, 2008 at participating Honda retailers. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. See your Honda retailer for full details. *Civic mileage based on 2008 Fuel Consumption Guide rating published by Natural Resources Canada. Fit Mileage based on data compiled by Honda Canada. These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. The actual fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. Refer to the Government of Canada's EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide for more information. Based on Civic with 1.8L engine and manual transmission / Honda Fit with 1.5L engine and automatic transmission. Visit www.vehicles.gc.ca for more information.



Hey Toronto!

Get down to the CN Tower to check out some of the top 100 Canadian entries at the Metro Global Photo Challenge Exhibit from November 8th till the 16th on the Mezzanine level.

While you're there, don't forget to enter a ballot for your chance to win a $200 gift certificate to *360 Restaurant (courtesy of the CN Tower)* and a Nikon S60 *(valued at $359 – from Downtown Camera)!*

Contest ends on November 17th. No Purchase necessary to see the exhibit.

ALSO – look for the Downtown Camera flyer with some fantastic offers including free gear and discounts on photofinishing!

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ELGANTINE AUBRY/FOR METRO WORLD NEWS

"After everything we've used, what is there left of the Earth?" says fashion designer Coqueline Courreges, who plans to bypass biofuel, gas and hydrogen and use solar power.

Green's in fashion with couture cars

EMMA E FORREST
Metro World News

The couture cars combine stunning design and high speed.

When fashion brands get involved with cars, it's usually limited to natty trim or logos, but one French fashion house has actually started making them.

Andre and Coqueline Courreges invented the space-age look of the 1960s, with their white PVC boots and a-line mini dresses. But they've always designed more than clothes as their new book Courreges testifies, creating furniture, interiors, Olympics uniforms — and cars.

Courreges' first prototype was a one-seater electric car, sent down the runway with their 1969 collection as an ecological comment.

In 2002, Coqueline, horrified by the car industry's failure to address the urgency of climate change, set about showing how easy is is to develop a practical green car. "Car manufacturers need a kick in the butt," she says, when I hitch a ride with her in Paris. "We urgently need to put the brakes on consumption."

Coqueline built the white bubble-shaped Bulle, an EV with a range of 170 km and top speed of 110 km/h, then tried different batteries in her next two prototypes, the EXE and Zooop, each lighter and more energy-efficient than the last.

EVs have a reputation for looking lame and driving like golf carts, but these cars combine stunning design and high speed.

Pedestrians gasp as the blue-framed lithium ion battery-powered EXE fires straight to 90 km/h, just half way to its top speed. The rear-wheel drive yellow egg-shaped Zooop is even more powerful, reaching 180 km/h, earning it a prize for performance at Michelin's annual sustainable mobility event, Challenge Bibendum. You could overtake a transport truck on the motorway in this, and it also has a range of 450 km.

They're the dream cars for the city — big enough for three, fast but efficient, and totally cool.

Coqueline is now exploring new technologies. She is revealling two new prototypes in January and plans to use solar power within the next five years.

Read about celebrity luxury cars on sale at metronews.ca/toronto/live/automotive

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Jamaica makeover
Jamaica plans to spend $11 million US to clean up and prepare several resort areas for the high tourism season. Crews will target cities including Negril, St. Ann and Kingston, according to Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travel

Best beaches

Dr. Stephen P. Leatherman, a.k.a. Dr. Beach, named Caladesi Island State Park in Dunedin/Clearwater, Fla., as America's top beach of 2008. Hanalei Beach on Kauai, Hawaii, took the No. 2 spot, and Siesta Beach in Sarasota, Fla., came in at No. 3.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Rooms with a view

St. Lucia's newest upscale resorts boast panoramas so beautiful they've actually made grown men cry

REB STEVENSON
for Metro Canada

Jade Mountain resort in Soufriere, St. Lucia, doesn't have rooms — just "sanctuaries." And while that word may evoke serenity and calm, many guests experience the complete opposite when they enter their digs.

"People burst into tears," says Peter Jean Paul, assistant manager of the resort that opened less than two years ago. "I've seen them jump up and down uncontrollably ... And I'm talking about the men."

Standing in one of the "sanctuaries," such an outburst seems fitting. The four-poster bed, luxurious tub and panel of living ferns that grace the beautiful room are impressive. But they pale in comparison to what's not in the room: A fourth wall.

In its place is the hotel artwork to end all hotel artwork — an unobstructed vista of the Caribbean and the breathtaking twin Piton Mountains, while a basin of crystal clear water appears to cascade off the edge of the room.

It's an optical illusion created by the infinity pool in each of the resort's 24 sanctuaries.

REB STEVENSON PHOTO

From the "sanctuaries" at the Jade Mountain resort in Soufriere, St. Lucia, guests have a spectacular view of the Caribbean and the island's breathtaking twin Piton Mountains.

This is the vision of Canadian architect/owner Nick Troubetzkoy, who sought to create a hovering platform where the terms "indoor" and "outdoor" no longer apply.

To keep the vision unspoiled, reality — in the form of phones, TVs and radios — has been banished. One couple was so enchanted, they didn't come out of their room for five whole days.

"People get married in the rooms," says Jean Paul.

Lots of people are falling under St. Lucia's spell.

The island's tourism market is booming, and the proof is in the numbers: Today, there are 5,181 rooms on the island. By 2010, another 1,650 will have joined their ranks, with eight new resorts slated to open.

Bargain-basement all-inclusives they ain't.

The new resorts include high-rollers like Ritz-Carlton, Raffles and Westin, along with some uber-posh boutique hotels.

When it comes to St. Lucia's dramatic tropical landscape — thick rain forest and undulating roads that have your stomach whimpering for Gravol — hotel and golf course developers drool, says Tourism Minister Allen Chastanet.

And the dramatic topographical diversity attracts travellers bored with the sameness of typical Caribbean resorts.

"Beach vacations are great the first couple of times, but eventually people want to see more," says Chastanet. "Travel needs to be more than just relaxation, it has to be an experience."

St. Lucia fills that bill. Those who are beach-bummed can frolic in a waterfall, slather on a layer of healing volcanic mud, zipline through the rain forest or bravely climb Gros Piton. The annual summer carnival welcomes tourists into its glittery embrace.

As of 2011, five new golf courses will round out the recreational offerings. And just who will be teeing off? Brits and Americans for the most part, but the tourist board anticipates a 23 per cent swell in Canadian visitors between now and 2010 — and this winter alone there will be a 40 per cent increase in flights to St. Lucia by Canadian carriers WestJet, Air Canada, Air Transat and Sunwing.

While budget-friendly options exist (word-of-mouth home-stays are plentiful; just ask a local and they'll probably refer you to their sister-in-law's back room), the wooing of well-heeled travellers is the order of the day.

"It's more expensive to fly here. The class we have to go after is middle-class and higher," says Chastanet.

At Cap Maison Resort and Spa, a cluster of 22 Spanish/Caribbean fusion villas on the northernmost point of St. Lucia, the slogan "for the privileged few" is unapologetically elitist.

"The feel is less of a hotel, more of a private home or a social house party," says general manager Ross Stevenson. We stroll through the nearly-completed complex. Leaning on the balcony at the outdoor restaurant,

Stevenson gestures down at the crashing surf, where a large flat rock has captured his fancy. "It's going to be a deck, and we're going to put in a champagne zip-line, so people can wave a flag and have a bottle sent down," he says.

Getting there

- WestJet has had direct flights from Toronto three times a week since Nov. 2.
- Air Canada has regular service from Toronto, with added flights in December.
- Sunwing and Air Transat have weekly flights from Toronto (December through April).

Airfares

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Travel Nov 28 - Dec 5/ts + taxes & fees $223

Fort Lauderdale $6
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London $149
Travel Nov 24, 26 - Dec 4/ts + taxes & fees $448

Cancun $165
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Puerto Plata 4-Star $398
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ADD Grand Canyon West Rim deluxe air tour from $144.

5-Star $415
MGM Grand Hotel & Casino + taxes & fees $212

Las Vegas

Holidays

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Navigator Of The Seas + taxes & fees $511
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare to Fort Lauderdale, 2-nights 3-star accom at Lauderdale Beachside Hotel in Fort Lauderdale and a 5-night Western Caribbean cruise sailing with Royal Caribbean visiting George Town, Grand Cayman and Ocho Rios, Jamaica. Departs Dec 4/inf/ts.

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Warming up

The hottest trend to spill over from the World Cup is heated gear bags. The concept is simple: Place boots, gloves and socks in an insulated bag with a low heat source to warm the contents. Starting the day with warm boots helps keep feet warm the whole day. Prices range from $139 to $169. Go to hotgearbag.com for more. **SKI CANADA**

The road from Calgary

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The killer-combo of great snow and money in boom-time Albertans' pockets drove serveral resorts' ski-er visits to all-time records.

Last season approached epic nearly throughout the big arc of resorts within day trip/weekending distance of Calgary — from Marmot Basin at Jasper in the north, via the Banff/Lake Louise, Golden and Invermere areas to Fernie in the south.

The region's absolute growth in skier traffic proves ski resort development can be about expanding the overall pie, not just resorts cannibalizing market share. While B.C. has exploded from 1.5 million to six million skier visits over the past 30 years, Alberta's ski areas have also grown from 1.1 million skier visits to 2.7 million with the Rockies region playing a major role.

Long before Wall Street's meltdown in September, whiffs of economic unease were in the air last winter. The Canadian dollar's climb drove down destination traffic. Real estate markets in southern Alberta — which also generate the core market of real estate buyers at all the resorts — showed signs of having crested. Ontario was in manufacturing meltdown. So it was fortuitous timing that most resorts found themselves in a phase of incremental improvement rather than gigantic capital investments. And that's OK — for the Rockies region resorts have created a superb infrastructure. Their combined array of high-speed lifts, uphill capacity, terrain size and variety, accommodation, amenities and general service would be almost unrecognizable to past generations of skiers. Subtle touch-ups (glading and grooming) are mostly all that's needed. One operator bucking the trend however is Kicking Horse.

MIKE POWELL /ALLSPORT/GETTY IMAGES

Alberta's ski areas have grown from 1.1 million skier visits to 2.7 million.

KICKING HORSE

Plans were unveiled at Kicking Horse Mountain Resort at Golden, B.C., for a transformative expansion aimed at catapulting it into Canada's top tier of ski resorts. Its move, announced in August, amounts to a bellowing rejoinder to last year's hype over Revelstoke Mountain Resort. It's meant to accelerate the momentum of a mountain that has earned the respect of every hard-core skier who's ever visited, and attracted a growing following from the Calgary area, but remains short of profitable mass-market presence.

"I'm jazzed — it's a great rebirth of the resort," said Steve Paccagnan, Kicking Horse's president and GM, in an interview just before autumn. "A lot of things came together, there's a lot of cool stuff going on." Signing of the official master development agreement is expected in December — as is a feature detailing the expansion in the next issue of Ski Canada.

NORQUAY

The perfectly situated mountain just above Banff continues to service its unique market niche.

Last season Norquay opened its redesigned snowboard park under the tutelage of Jeff Patterson to "great reviews," according to André Quenneville, Norquay's general manager. The town mountain also received last-minute Parks Canada approval to widen Excalibur run to a continuous 40-metre-wide FIS standard.

"This made for a safe and up-to-standard race slope and a terrific fast cruising run," says Quenneville. The slope was renamed "Give 'er Grandi" in honour of local boy and World Cup racer Thomas Grandi.

This season, further tweaks to Norquay's snowmaking system allow pre-weekend touch-ups of steeper sections. It has also built an introductory-level skiercross, and is now offering a network of snowshoeing trails with equipment available for rent. The company's long-term plan for a major overhaul, which would include a new gondola and summer operations, remains at the vision stage with Parks Canada.

SUNSHINE VILLAGE

Sunshine's eight-decade journey has taken it from log-cabin way station to the best lift system in our resort lineup plus the only slopeside accommodation in the national parks. Thanks to plentiful snows, sunshine and Alberta's ongoing growth, Sunshine last season racked up its largest-ever total of skier-visits. The mountain opens Nov. 7, weather permitting.

The biggest news is the completion of the hotel renovation. Last spring the resort razed the '60s-vintage Terrace wing and launched construction of 30 new units plus the total overhaul of the 54 other units.

"The Sunshine Inn has been officially renamed the Sunshine Mountain Lodge," says Doug Firby, Sunshine's associate director of communications, media and marketing. "It's a huge leap forward in environmental responsibility, including a 44 per cent reduction in electricity consumption, a 20 per cent reduction in water consumption, maximization of passive solar heating, with everything built to leading environmental standards, and all on the existing footprint."

The $6-million investment is the second-largest in Sunshine's history.

Ski Canada is available on newsstands now. Check out the 2009 Buyer's Guide, which features product news, highlights and more.

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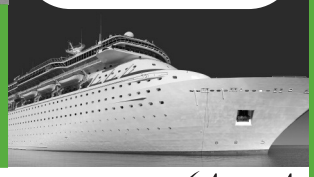

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Take lessons, expert says

TAGHREED SAADEH
for Metro Canada

Snowboarding is a great way to enjoy the mountains and get some exercise, but it can be frustrating if you don't learn the proper techniques.

That's why Anthony Crute, owner/operations manager of Pro Ride Snowboard Camps, recommends getting a lesson from your local snowboard school. "You will learn quicker than doing it on your own, have more success and less chance of injury," he says.

"The learning curve for snowboarding is quite quick, so in no time you can be making turns down easy trails on your local ski hill," he adds.

"Do not give up after one day," he says. "Plan to take three to four half-day lessons and then practice what you have learned."

If you can afford it, a private lesson is best, says Crute, but otherwise, a group lesson is still a better option than teaching yourself.

"Choose your lesson days carefully," he says. "Watch the weather and look for a day with fresh snow or warm slushy conditions.

"If you ski, then don't learn to snowboard on a crappy ski day, as it will not be conducive to learning to snowboard," he says. "Avoid icy days."

Most importantly, Crute says, is "Relax and have fun."

Crute says beginners should dress warmly and wear protective equipment, such as padded shorts, wrist guards and a helmet. Riding clothing is functional, loose-fitting, layered, funky and waterproof.

"Make sure you rent high-performance snowboard gear when you learn as it is better than the basic rental gear," he says.

Snowboarding can be frustrating if you don't learn the proper techniques, says Anthony Crute of Pro Ride Snowboard Camps.

As snowboarding requires strength, flexibility, muscular endurance and balance, exercise is key to being ready to hit the slopes.

"To get ready for the winter, and to keep you in shape across the winter, you will want to look at training two to three times a week with one day's rest in between each session," he says. "The goal here is to start to build your endurance and strength and make sure that you work out all of the major muscle groups."

For more information, visit pro-ride.com.

Dos and don'ts

Below are ski bindings dos and don'ts, by Martin Olson, technical editor at Ski Canada:

- **DO** make sure boots are absolutely clean before stepping in.
- **DON'T** boot your bindings like a football before slamming the boot in — it's not cool or smart.
- **DO** clean bindings with water — solvents will dissolve factory-installed lubricants that also serve as rust protection.
- **DON'T** release your binding with your ski. All heelpieces have an indentation so that you can release by pushing down with your pole.
- **DO** know your DIN — the Deutsches Institut fur Normung (German Institute for Standardization) — setting. It's not something you want to guess at.
- **DON'T** transport skis unprotected on your car roof. Corrosion from road salt and grit can ruin expensive bindings as well as make their function suspect.
- **DO** let a shop pro adjust your bindings the first time. SKI CANADA

Hong Kong, Macau hotels receive a record five stars

Mobil Travel Guide's new book about Hong Kong and Macau includes more five-star rated hotels and spas than any other guide the company has ever produced. Five hotels earned five stars and three spas earned five stars. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Snowbirds find their wings are clipped

Market turmoil, falling loonie are a double whammy

Some Canadians preparing to fly the coop in search of warmer temperatures may be feeling their wings clipped due to the roller-coaster activity in the markets and the value of the dollar.

Retirees and those approaching retirement who have seen their savings take a hit are also dealing with a loonie that's well below where it was last winter, when it was hovering around parity with the American currency.

Realtors in popular seniors retirement destinations like Florida say that while home prices are down as much as 50 per cent in the state, recent market fluctuations have led some Canadians to hold off on buying properties.

"It's not a matter of the Canadian dollar so much that I see, or a matter of whether they have the money or don't have the money, it's become a real situation of there's so much turmoil in the financial world, people are just sitting back and sitting on the fence waiting to see where things go," said Gerry Rosenblum with Prudential Florida Realty.

Rosenblum's office is based in Marco Island in southwestern Florida, where home prices are on average around $900,000 US. The island sees its population more than double from January through March to more than 30,000 due to an influx of winter residents and vacationers.

Kimberly Kirschner, president of Kirschner Realty International, Inc. in Hollywood, Fla., said she doesn't think sales will take too much of a hit in the wake of the Canadian dollar's current downturn largely because discounts are so great they offset it.

"For people who have cash in this market, they're buyers and they're buying at the best possible time because U.S. property is at such at a discount," Kirschner said.

"What we're seeing with those people is that the currency fluctuations aren't bothering them so much as they may be taking a step back and saying, 'Are prices going to get even better?'

"But otherwise ... because of the negative market fluctuation in the U.S., we are seeing people from outside the country, Canadians, Europeans, take a renewed interest in buying U.S. real estate."

A search of two-bedroom, one bathroom properties in Daytona Beach listed on househunter.com/florida turned up homes priced as low as $18,900 US.

Travel experts say it's still too early to foresee the impact the double whammy to financial investments and vacation budgets will have on travellers.

But they suggest it will likely have greater repercussions for those planning short-term vacations than for Canadians who spend extensive periods trekking or living abroad.

Some snowbirds may have to say goodbye to those Florida sunsets because of the economy.

Michael MacKenzie, director of communications for the Canadian Snowbird Association, whose organization caters to people who typically spend three to six months down south, said they haven't yet seen a drop-off in snowbird travel this season.

"You have to keep in mind that 10 years ago (when the dollar was valued at) 62, 63, 64 cents, snowbirds were going south in record numbers, so if you had said to them, 'The dollar would be 80 cents,' they would have jumped at that," said MacKenzie, adding that some 162,000 Canadians spent 90 days or longer outside the country in 2006.

"If there are any downsides for snowbirds, it will likely be that they may curtail their spending on things like dining out multiple nights a week — but they won't stop from making the journey altogether," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Flying high
The international tourism industry faces a tough year in 2009, but low-cost air carriers could profit from the global recession, according to the World Travel Market 2008 report by Euromonitor International. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stargazing on The Big Island

Few Earthly viewing venues can top Hawaii's Mauna Kea

DAWNA L. ROBERTSON
for Metro Canada

Sure, I can spot the Big Dipper. And while I love a full moon, nothing beats the promise of wishing on a shooting star. But those iconic nighttime wonders aside, my knowledge of a darkened sky is basic at best.

DAWNA L. ROBERTSON

A sunset shot of the summit of Mauna Kea on Hawaii's Big Island.

Determined to heighten my celestial sense, I knew few earthly viewing venues could top Mauna Kea on Hawaii's Big Island. So on a romp to the remarkably diverse island, I decided to shoot for Hawaii Forest & Trail's (HF&T) stargazing tour to this renowned astronomical observing site.

On a typical warm Big Island afternoon, our group of eager star-trekkers boarded a 12-passenger van at HF&T's Kona Coast headquarters. Interpretive naturalist Greg Brown had packed parkas and provisions for the eight-hour excursion. Not accustomed to lengthy transit, I had my concerns. They faded away, however, as our adventure began to unfold.

Mauna Kea is overwhelming. To observe the "white mountain" from sea level, one can only begin to grasp its size. Weaving toward the summit, I was consumed by this massive mound.

Well versed in Hawaiiana, Brown shared both fact and folklore on the dramatic evolution of our surroundings. As we passed a pueo (native Hawaiian owl) perched in a dead mamane tree, he explained how ranching and grazing herds had transformed the area from forest into grassland.

Midway to the summit, we stopped at historic Humuula Station, an abandoned sheep outpost geared with a dining tent, tables and extremely clean porta potties.

It was cool and foggy at the Parker Ranch post — quite a contrast to coastal conditions earlier in the day. Aside from sustenance, the dinner stop also helped acclimatize us for our final ascent. With a hearty meal under our belts, we continued our star quest.

Near the 9,000-foot level, the van emerged from a thick fog into a brilliant blue sky. It was as if the heavens had opened up. We progressed toward the 13,500-foot elevation past volcanic cinder cones and patches of snow.

"Mauna Kea's summit rises above 40 per cent of the Earth's atmosphere," Brown explained. "Plus it's far from city lights. Up here, you'll have optimal viewing of galaxies that stretch to the very edge of our observable universe."

As I exited the van with a wobbly step or two, I noticed the elevation definitely had an impact.

Read more on page 29 »

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Where to stay

The bulk of The Big Island's accommodations are sprinkled along the sunny Kona Coast, with a roster of five-star Kohala Coast resorts crowning the list. Known for world-class accommodations, championship golf, upscale spas and beautiful Pacific waters, these offerings run north from the Kona International Airport toward the rolling hills of Waimea. Here's a quick rundown on the island's "Gold Coast" offerings within each master-planned resort destination:

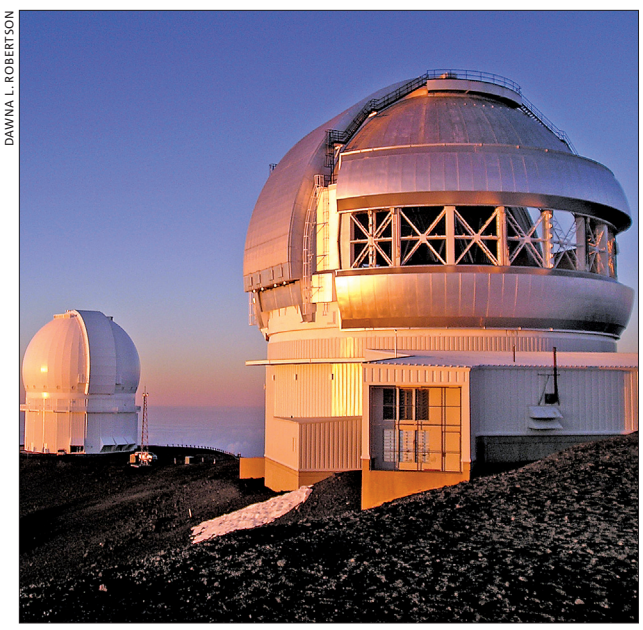
- Kaupulehu — Kona Village Resort, konavillage.com.
- Four Seasons Resort Hualalai, fourseasons.com/hualalai.
- Waikoloa Beach Resort — Hilton Waikoloa Village, hiltonwaikoloavillage.com.
- Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort & Spa, marriotthawaii.com.
- Maui Lani Resort — Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows, maunalani.com.
- The Fairmont Orchid Hawaii, fairmont.com.
- Mauna Kea Resort — Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel, princeresortshawaii.com.
- Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, maunakeabeachhotel.com.

DAWNA L. ROBERTSON/
FOR METRO CANADA

Long haul

Irish low-cost carrier Ryanair has said it's looking at the possibility of transatlantic services if it can buy long-haul aircraft at deeply discounted rates from other airlines looking to off-load costs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAWNA L. ROBERTSON



DAWNA L. ROBERTSON

Left, a couple of the telescopes at the summit of Mauna Kea shortly before sunset. Right, an evening shot of Kona Village Resort.

Continued from page 28 »

While that quickly passed, the temperature was another issue. Brown warned us that it had plummeted below freezing. So I zipped my parka and tightened the hood. Standing at the summit was nothing short of amazing. We were literally on top of the world, at the peak of the tallest mountain on Earth. And as daylight slowly slipped away, the journey grew more spectacular.

Brown recited the roster of observatories. "Those are the Keck twins and that's the Subaru Telescope." Eleven countries currently host 13 telescopes at the summit, some 31,000 feet above the ocean's floor in the world's most isolated area.

After a stunning sunset, we returned to the Onizuka Center For International Astronomy at the 9,200-foot level. Here, Brown set up a pair of eight-inch Celestron Cassegrain telescopes for our star party.

He also used lasers to point out clusters and constellations. Warm in our parkas and with hot chocolate and macadamia nut cookies in hand, we "oohed" and "aahed" at the brilliance of Hawaii's night sky. Far beyond simply viewing the heavens, we were witnessing Earth's place in the cosmos.

After an hour or so, our group agreed that we were seeing things more clearly — connecting the dots, so to speak. We were headed for home as the Southern Cross began to rise — just as Brown had promised. I counted my lucky stars I'd taken this trek.

The eight-hour/12-person maximum Mauna Kea Summit & Stars Adventure is offered daily for $185 US plus tax, including picnic-style dinner, snack, hot beverages, hooded parka and gloves. Reservations are highly recommended at least one week in advance, as this tour consistently sells out.

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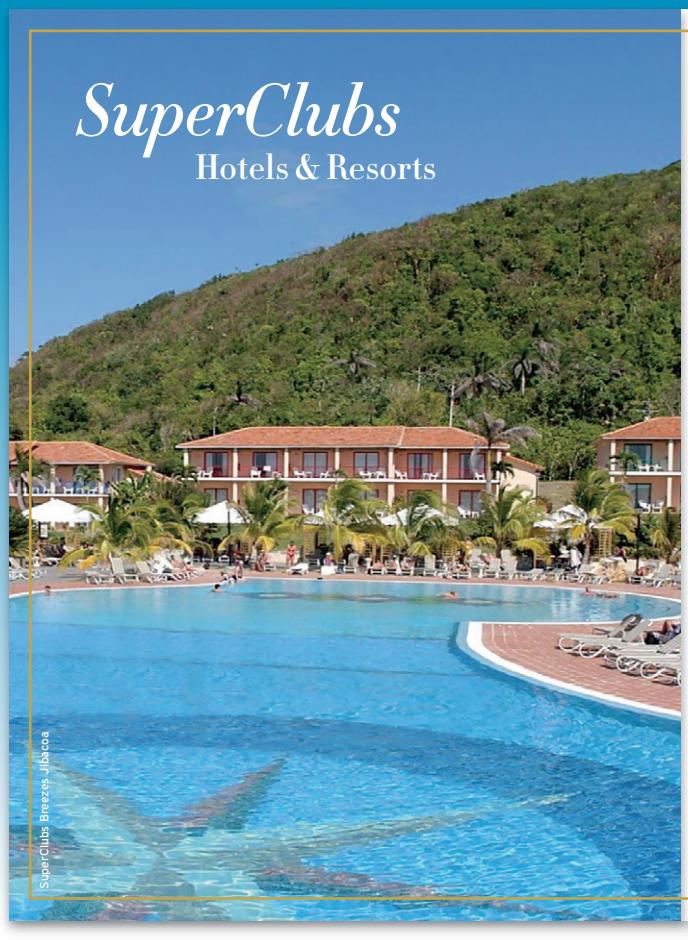

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European restaurant guide released

Zagat Survey has released its 2009 Europe's Top Restaurants guide, which covers 1,639 of the continent's best eateries in 27 cities from Amsterdam to Zurich, based on the experiences of 16,829 savvy diners. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Washington hotel rooms hard to get for the presidential inauguration

Tickets to balls and other events related to the Jan. 20 presidential inauguration will be hard to come by, but you can always join the crowds along the parade route, and Washington tourism officials say it's not impossible to find a place to stay.

Hundreds of thousands of people always gather along Pennsylvania Avenue to watch the procession from the Capitol to the White House after the swearing-in ceremony.

You'll likely see marching bands and floats no matter where you stand, but you're not guaranteed a glimpse of the president and his family. Only bleacher seats require tickets. The Monday holiday for Martin Luther King Jr. Day falls on Jan. 19, the day before the inauguration.

Be prepared for cold weather. According to Weather Underground's Trip Planner, since 1993, temperatures on Jan. 20 in Washington have run from an average low of about -3 C to an average high of almost 4 C. The temperature dipped below freezing in 11 of the past 16 years and only once did it go as high as almost 16 C.

The official Washington tourism agency, Destination DC, advises that hotels do still have some rooms available but they require a three- to four-night minimum stay and prepayment.

If you're trying to book online, entering information for a one- or two-night stay for Jan. 19-20 may not yield results. Destination DC offers online hotel booking at reservations.washington.org.

On some websites, like Craigslist, individuals are offering space in private apartments and homes.

Destination DC has created a 2009 Presidential Inauguration event on Facebook. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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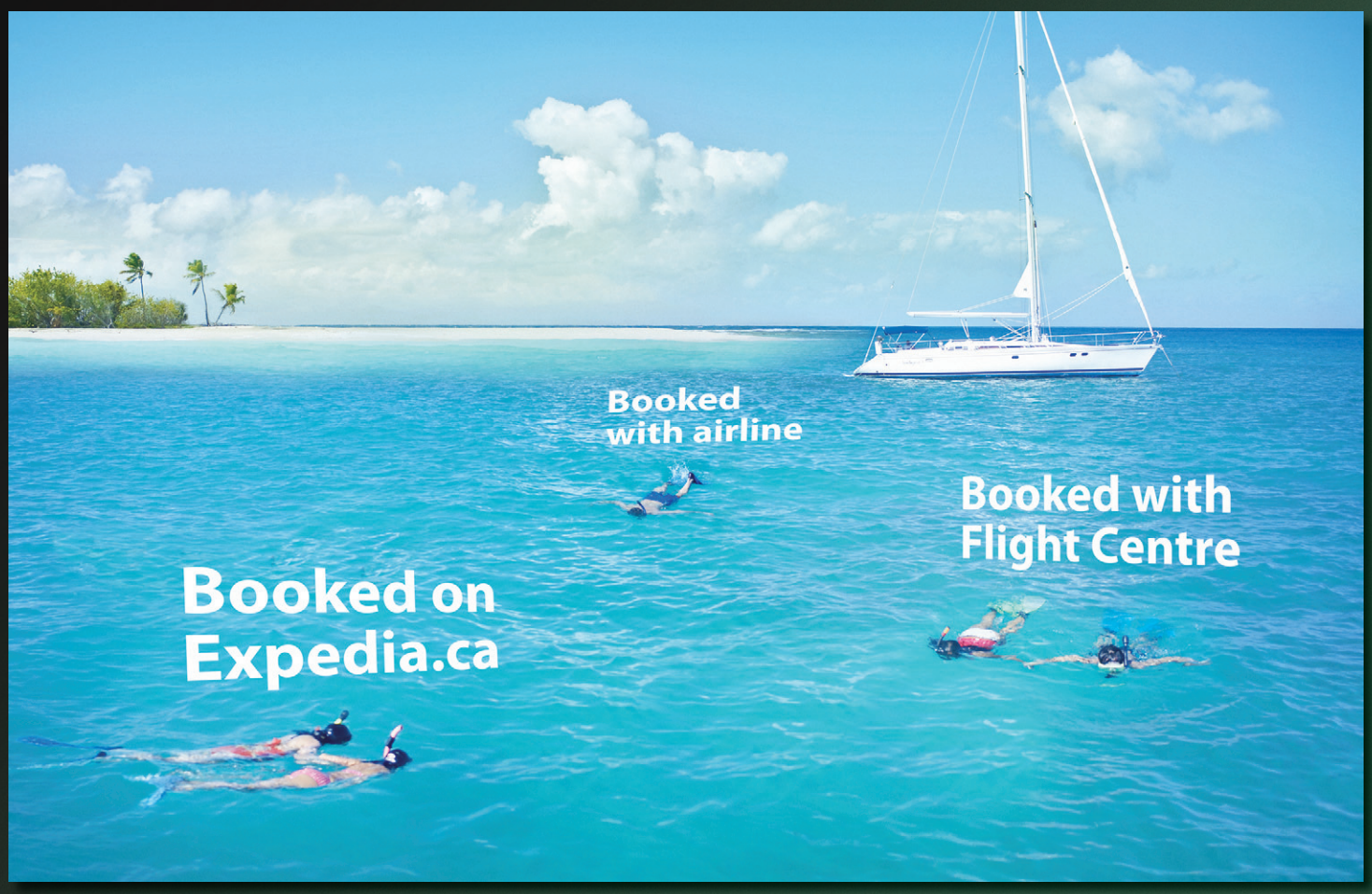

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B.C., Quebec rivers named among top rafting adventures

LOCATIONS Two Canadian river-rafting trips — one in British Columbia, the other in Quebec — are highlighted in the new book Ultimate Adventures, published by Rough Guides.

The Klinaklini River, which flows to Knight Inlet on B.C.'s Queen Charlotte Strait, is remote and difficult to navigate, the book says. Access to the start location is by helicopter. Rafters "whirl through steep glacial canyons with unexpected twists and turns."

"The reward, besides the adrenalin rush from the heart-stopping chutes and wild runs, is some of British Columbia's most exquisite scenery."

The best time to undertake the weeklong wilderness journey is July and August, the book says.

In Quebec, it can take up to a week to travel the 190 kilometres down the Magpie River, which empties into the Jacques Cartier Strait across from Anticosti Island. Travellers portage around the impressive Magpie Falls, where the river drops 30 metres.

"This rushing chute of water cuts through a largely untouched wilderness larger than the whole of Scandinavia."

The time to go is June to August. Access to the remote starting location is by float plane.

Other rafting trips highlighted in Ultimate Adventures include the Brahmaputra River in Tibet, the Karamea River in New Zealand, the Karnali River in Nepal and the Omo River in Ethiopia. THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. oyster farm tours

FESTIVAL Oyster farm tours will be a highlight of the 12th annual Clayoquot Oyster Festival in Tofino, from Nov. 20-22. At Tofino's community centre there will be the Mermaid's Ball (a costume party with a raw oyster bar) and a gala where local restaurants will compete for prizes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Free lift tickets
The ski resort at Steamboat Springs is offering free lift tickets from opening day on Nov. 26 through Christmas Day if you book a minimum three-night stay. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The intersection of dude and hipster

Texas Hill Country is the kind of place where cowboys and sommeliers meet and mingle

The Texas Hill Country, where tiny towns dot a landscape of wildflowers and cedar trees, is the kind of place where cowboys and sommeliers meet. Sometimes literally. Dude ranches and country dance halls sit alongside wineries and haute cuisine. A hard morning on horseback can be followed by an afternoon of wine and cheese. And nobody minds a bit.

ERIC GAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Visitors take a morning ride at the Dixie Dude Ranch near Bandera, Texas.

Ask Brandon Stowe. The 24-year-old in cowboy boots was swirling and sipping samples of wine here recently while in town for a wedding, but he and his hunting buddies often stop at a winery to pick up their favourite vintage at the end a day of hunting in the Hill Country.

"It's hard to imagine six guys who have been hunting all day going to a winery, but we do," he said, glass in hand in the cellar-like tasting room of the Torre di Pietra winery.

The Hill Country doesn't just sit culturally at the intersection of cowboy and urbane; it sits there geographically, too. Most of the region's attractions are within an hour's drive of Austin, the state's hipster capital, and San Antonio, home of the Alamo. And in a state where a drive between cities can be derriere-numbingly long, the Hill Country provides easy stops in a short distance.

"People are starting to hear about it and starting to understand that there are day trips that you can take," said Debbie Harmsen, lead editor of new Fodor's guides for Texas and for San Antonio, Austin and the Hill Country. "It's an area of the state that is overlooked, but it's one of its gems."

There are 22 wineries in the Hill Country, seven around Fredericksburg alone, with two more slated to open soon. Texas is now the nation's fifth largest wine-producing state.

It's "surprising to a lot of national media folks and consumers as a whole. They don't associate wine with Texas," said Ernie Loeffler, director of the Fredericksburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. "It's like, 'You have what in Texas?!'"

The Mediterranean climate is conducive to growing grapes, attracting dozens of new vintners in the last several decades. The wineries clustered together complement each other by sparing visitors long drives between stops, said Ken Maxwell, a former semiconductor executive who started Torre di Pietra in 2004.

Visitors range from new wine drinkers to experienced connoisseurs, he said. They come from all over the world, but Maxwell notes one consistent demographic: Most are women.

"Seventy to 75 per cent of my customers are ladies. Guys are a little slow, but sooner or later, they'll follow the ladies," he jokes.

The explosive growth of wineries adds a kind of urbane bent to the region's long popular outdoor activities, including river tubing and horseback riding.

About 80 kilometres south of Fredericksburg, in Bandera, dude ranches have been operating since 1920. The self-proclaimed "Cowboy Capital of the World" is home to seven dude ranches, where guests can take trail rides and eat cowboy fare.

Clay Conoly and his wife run the Dixie Dude Ranch, a 290-hectare spread that started hosting cityfolk in 1937 when Conoly's great-grandfather was in charge.

Guests ranging from urban Texans to international travellers interested in experiencing the American West stay in the duplex cabins at the ranch all year round.

The ranch has a heated pool and massage treatment available, for those who find the saddle soreness of ranch life a little too authentic.

"We don't get cell service. That pretty much drives people crazy, but after they get used to it, they're sort of glad they don't get cell service," said Conoly.

Like Dixie, the other dude ranches around Bandera are relatively small and family-run, said Patricia Moore, executive director of the Bandera County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

She compares the dude ranch experience to "an adult and kids camp at the same time," and she said the town draws visitors who want to try the cowboy life they only know from movies or books.

"You can come here and have some encounters that will leave you like, 'I can't believe I just saw what I saw,'" Moore said. "I can't tell you for sure you'll see someone riding a horse into downtown, but you just might."

And don't be entirely surprised if that cowboy decides to wet his whistle with a glass of chardonnay or sauvignon blanc.

"There's wine enthusiasts all over," Maxwell said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas Hill Country websites

- TEXAS WINE COUNTRY: texaswinetrail.com
- BANDERA TOURISM: banderacowboycapital.com
- TORRE DI PIETRA WINERY: texashillcountrywine.com
- DIXIE DUDE RANCH: dixieduderanch.com

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Carbon-offset campaign

Newly tabulated results from a carbon-offset campaign conducted this year by Carlson Hotels Worldwide report that donations from members of Carlson's goldpoints plusSM frequent-guest program were sufficient to offset 340,436 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

New Orleans shows its mettle by hosting a massive international art show

NEW ORLEANS A huge wooden ark, made from the wood of houses hurricane Katrina wrecked, and a pool of water that reflects pulsing light are among the exhibits of 81 artists whose works are on view in New Orleans' largest international art show in a century.

Prospect.1 New Orleans, which opened this month, displays works of art in 15 locations throughout the city. It is expected to draw an estimated 100,000 visitors during its three-month run.

"This is an amazing event," said E. John Bullard, director of the New Orleans Museum of Art. "In addition to the biennial sites, there are 70 other exhibits going on in galleries around town. You need several days to see everything."

Bullard and exhibit organizers say it is one of the largest international contemporary art exhibition ever staged in the United States. The event is planned as the beginning of a biennial — an art show that is held in the same city every other year, similar to shows in 25 other cities, including Venice, Italy, Sydney, Australia, Shanghai and Sao Paulo, Brazil.

"These shows are very successful, sometimes incredibly successful," said Dan Cameron, the founder and curator of Prospect.1. "We think we'll have about 100,000 people visit the show in the three months it's here."

That promises to be a financial bonus for the city, which is still struggling to build its tourism industry after Katrina hit on Aug. 29, 2005.

Biennials attract a special set of fans, Cameron said, ranging from international collectors to students to teachers and regional tourists who combine the chance to spend a weekend in a location such as New Orleans with a chance to see the exhibits.

"The artists themselves are what makes a show like this successful," Cameron said. "And we have a wonderful group of artists."

Although there is no set theme for the show, Cameron said many of the artists took the organizers up on their invitation to visit the city and get to know it before deciding on a project.

For more details, visit prospectneworleans.*org*.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHRIS JACKSON/GETTY IMAGES

Onlookers peer through the glass at the Ski Dubai snowdome inside Dubai Emirates Mall in the United Arab Emirates.

Exotic locales for your next ski getaway

Bored of your regular ski resort in the Alps or Rockies, with its familiar slopes, ski instructors, cuisine and après ski nightlife? Then try one of these exotic wintersports destinations:

OUKAIMEDEN SKI RESORT

- Sand turns to snow at the heart of Morocco's High-Atlas mountain range, where you can enjoy freestyle skiing and snowboarding. At dusk, head back to Chez Ju-Ju, a cosy chalet run by a French couple, for a dinner of aromatic homemade couscous (jujuoukaimden@caramail.com).
- Lifts/slopes: 7/20
- Day ski pass: Approximately $38
- How to get there: Oukaimeden is an easy day trip from Marrakech. A taxi ride to the resort should cost less than $45.
- Visit amazingmorocco.co.uk/skiing.

SKI DUBAI

- The Middle East's very first snow resort, at Dubai Emirates Mall in the United Arab Emirates, boasts a snow park, bobsleigh, ski and snowboarding runs. Snow at Ski Dubai is 100 per cent natural, created through a chemical-free water-cooling system.
- Lifts/slopes: 1/5
- Day ski pass: Approximately $90
- How to get there: The Ski Dubai Mall of the Emirates is located south of Dubai on the Sheikh Zayed Road.
- Visit skidubai.com.

LECHT SKI RESORT

- Don't expect perfect powder, but Scotland's premier ski resort in Eastern Cairngorms does get snow and is a great place to learn to ski or try snow tubing. Wrap up the day with a dinner of haggis and a dram of whisky.
- Lifts/slopes: 14/20
- Day ski pass: Approximately $45
- How to get there: Straddling the A939 on the famous Cockbridge to Tomintoul road, Lecht 2090 is easily reached from Speyside and Aviemore, Donside and Aberdeen, Royal Deeside and Perth.
- Visit lecht.co.uk.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Back in action
The Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in New York City has reopened to the public after nearly two years of restoration. The museum on the Hudson River is housed in a former aircraft carrier. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hidden jungle jewels in Belize

TheTravelJunkie

JULIA DIMON/METRO CANADA

The High Temple is the tallest structure at the Lamanai site.

Ruins tend to incite the imagination, conjuring up thoughts of ancient civilizations, lost secrets and mystic rituals. That's running through my mind as I stroll through the moss-covered ruins of a major Mayan city, located in the remote jungles of northern Belize near the tiny town of Orange Walk.

Lamanai, located on the banks of the New River Lagoon, goes down as one of the longest-occupied Mayan sites. It was inhabited for more than 3,000 years and has some of the oldest ruins in Belize. The name itself means "submerged crocodile," in honour of the toothy reptiles that infest nearby waters.

My guide tells me that, in its heyday, Lamanai was a ceremonial centre, with a population exceeding 35,000. Today, it encompasses more than 700 structures, a visitor's centre and a museum. Today, only a small percentage of the site is fully excavated, leaving a wealth of archeological findings to discover.

While many associate Mayan ruins with Mexico, neighbouring Belize also played a big part in Mayan civilization. Visitors can visit Lamanai as part of a tour, which usually includes a boat trip, admission fee and a well-trained guide.

Wandering around the ruins, I can hear the faint cry of a Howler monkey growling in the distance. It's one of those unmistakable sounds — more like a pained, demonic snarl out of Dante's Inferno than the noise of a territorial primate hanging from a nearby tree. Nevertheless, it adds to the air of mystery.

With the entire place to myself, I visit the Jaguar Temple, a huge crumbling pyramid with intricate carvings. Then to the Mask Temple, named for the 13-foot limestone representation of an ancient Mayan king.

But it's the High Temple that's easily the most impressive structure. "At 108 feet, it's the highest structure in the area," notes the guide.

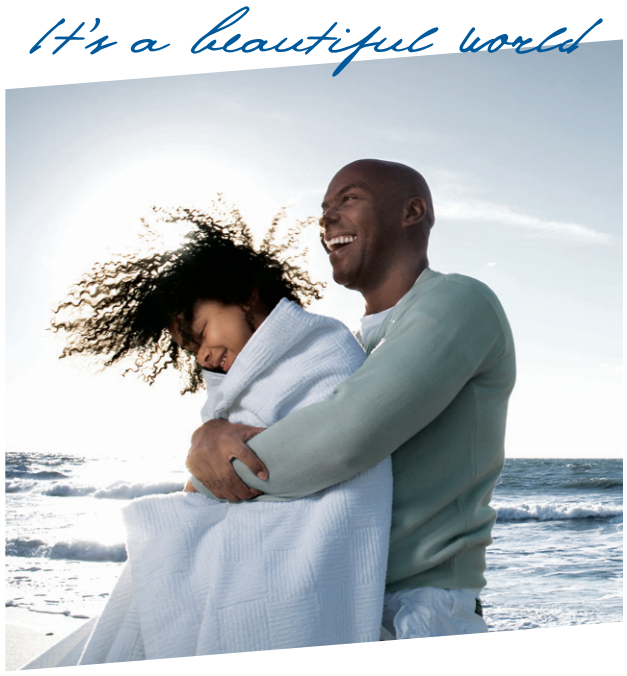
Climbing to the top of it, however, is harrowing. The steps are narrow and slippery, while the steep incline incites vertigo. I cling to a rope (strategically placed so dumb tourists like me don't trip and kill themselves) and nervously make my way up this ancient stone Stairmaster.

"Slow and steady," I tell myself, as I huff and puff up the ruins. Tumbling down this flight of steps would be bad for business.

Once at the top, the view makes up for the climb. It's a striking 360 degree panorama of jungle and river lagoon.

As a colourful keel-billed toucan flies overhead and settles in a canopy of rainforest, it hits me — it's no wonder the Mayans lived here for thousands of years. It's a stunning spot with a killer view, and it showcases the beauty of Belize.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN; juliadimon.com.



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*Interview with the winner and publication of the winner's photographs is optional. Terms and conditions available online. Metro Global Photo Challenge received 30,868 entries last year, making it one of the largest competitions in digital photography in the World. Open to non-professionals and professionals.

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Court allows UBC-O student to deny pro-life group club status

A B.C. Supreme Court ruling supports the University of British Columbia — Okanagan's student union's decision to remove a pro-life group's club status. The union has not supported Students for Life since 2006 because the group would not grant a request to not post graphic campaign material. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Workology

CENTENNIAL COLLEGE Centennial College

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Woman on a mission to help

Reality much more complicated than stereotypes on the street, social worker says

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Going from the street to a hostel can be challenging enough for homeless youth but transplanting their lives into homes of their own is the hardest challenge of all.

Social worker Jane Taylor, who works at helping homeless youth learn to support themselves in the working world, says mundane tasks as regular as paying the utility bill or doing laundry can seem like dauntingly foreign concepts to the homeless and eventually force many of them back onto the street.

As a case worker for the Touchstone Youth Centre in Toronto, Taylor, 26, has helped almost 100 homeless and street-involved clients get their lives back on track and out of the shelter as part of Touchstone's Hostels to Homes program.

Taylor works on teaching the city's homeless how to find and hold down a job, maintain an apartment and take care of the mundane tasks of normal daily life.

"Some of these people have been on the street since they were eight, nine or 10. It's about giving these people independence and then just helping them build a healthy and happy life for themselves," Taylor said.

She decided to become a social worker after travelling to London, England several years ago to work in an inner-city school with at-risk youth. She was taken aback by the poverty and helplessness she saw in parts of the city.

"A lot of people were really suffering. I just wanted to do more," Taylor said.

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

Jane Taylor decided to become a social worker after travelling to London, England, several years ago to work in an inner-city school with at-risk youth.

Coming back to Toronto, Taylor decide that doing more would mean helping homeless youth not only find a meal and a place to sleep but teaching them to provide for themselves.

While the rate of homeless recidivism is high, Taylor says people don't often see or hear about the many success stories, such as one client who has held down a steady job, an apartment and a car consistently since leaving the Touchstone program.

"There have been more successes than people would expect," she said.

Taylor says negative stereotypes and common misconceptions play a large part in the public's attitude to people like her clients when the reality is far starker and much less simple.

"I think a lot of people assume the homeless and street-involved youth are punks, criminals, or they're lazy or just don't want to get a job. Well I have some clients that have a Grade 7 education — they can't get jobs because they can't even fill out an application," Taylor said.

Seeing her clients succeed is all the reward Taylor needs.

"A lot of clients are so thankful. Just seeing them succeed and come off the program is reward enough," Taylor said.

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Your investments in today's economy

MONEY At a time of economic instability, we all wonder what we can do to protect our savings and pension funds. "The need to act when there's a problem is only natural," says Tom Hamza of Investor Education Fund. "But sudden action will lock in your losses."

Here are the top five things you can do for your investments:

Selling at the bottom of the market is the wrong thing to do. If you are tempted, consult a professional for a second opinion.

While your investments may have dropped at the moment, remember that your money will most likely grow over time. Think of your investments in terms of decades rather than months.

You're best positioned to weather an economic storm with a well-balanced portfolio — a combination of investments that together maximize growth while limiting risk. If the funds you have are all similar, you may not have the diversification you need and you should talk to your advisor or seek a second opinion.

Now is an important time for a gut check. If you thought you could handle risk but you're having difficulty dealing with a downturn, consider gradually changing your portfolio to reflect your risk tolerance.

Find out how your portfolio is doing. "While your advisor might simply suggest staying the course, a quick conversation may be reassuring," says Hamza. "If you're a do-it-yourself investor, now might be a good time to get an opinion from a professional advisor."

Learn more at investorED.ca, an independent website to help people make informed decisions about investments.

NEWS CANADA

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When your former employer calls, you should probably pick up, Metro's columnist says.

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"OPPORTUNITY IS MISSED BY MOST PEOPLE BECAUSE IT IS DRESSED IN OVERALLS AND LOOKS LIKE WORK."
–THOMAS A. EDISON

How do you beat your ex-employer in court but ultimately collect little or no damages? Just ask Michael Davies. He succeeded in proving that he was constructively dismissed but failed to show that he acted reasonably by choosing not to return to the workplace that fired him. In the ever-changing world of employment law, returning after you have been fired may sometimes be required.

When Richmond, B.C.-based Fraser Collection Services Limited experienced a slowdown in work, Davies, a 63 year-old debt collector, was approached by Fraser's president and told that he would be placed on a temporary layoff. During Davies' exit meeting, he was told that Fraser hoped to recall him back to work, on a long-term basis, as soon as the company regained financial stability and he was invited to remain in touch with the company during the layoff to discuss his potential to return to work.

Being placed on a temporary layoff did not sit well with Davies. Feeling that he had been "financially stranded" and "dumped," he did not want to wait around for Fraser to pick and then choose when he could work. Approximately two months later, Davies was called back to work, but he ignored the offer and sued the company instead.

Davies sued for damages, alleging that his layoff amounted to a dismissal. Relying on the legal doctrine of constructive dismissal, Davies was able to successfully argue that because his employment contract did not expressly or implicitly allow for temporary layoffs, he was in fact terminated and entitled to damages instead.

Now that Davies had obtained the right to damages stemming from dismissal, he had also inherited the duty to mitigate those damages. The obligation to mitigate requires dismissed employees to take reasonable steps to limit their losses. Usually, this requires ex-employees to look for other work. If an employee doesn't do so, a court may reduce the damages that were otherwise owed.

Until recently, it was generally proper for an employee to reject returning to the workplace that fired him. However, that all changed when the Supreme Court found that unless there are conditions such as humiliation, embarrassment or hostility, employees would be expected to return to their jobs. In this case, because he had refused Fraser's offer, it was able to show that a comparable job was open for Davies to accept but that he had declined it.

Although Davies had made out his claim for wrongful dismissal, the court ultimately reduced his damages by 80 per cent for refusing to return to work.

Although Davies had made out his claim for wrongful dismissal, the court ultimately reduced his damages by 80 per cent for refusing to return to work. Employees, therefore, can take the following lessons from this case:

- Where an employer offers its former employees a bona-fide chance to return to work, the employees may be required to accept, unless they can objectively show that there is an atmosphere of hostility, embarrassment or humiliation in returning.
- A temporary layoff can sometimes amount to a wrongful/constructive dismissal. However, it may not always be wise to sue for damages, even if you have the ability to do so.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

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U.K. schools worry Obama win may affect international recruitment

Barack Obama's win of the U.S. presidential election las week could affect British universities (and Canadian ones, as well) in recruiting foreign students. Obama's win would "without doubt" make the U.S. a more attractive destination for education. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Education and excitement abroad

It was while Mandy Ma was touring a BMW automobile factory in Germany that she realized just how cool an international student exchange program could be.

"We were there to observe how just-in-time inventory control works. It made the case studies we had read in our textbooks come alive," she recalls with a smile.

Ma went to Germany last fall as part of her international business program at Centennial College. About a dozen Centennial business students each year choose to spend a semester at a partner European university to enrich their studies.

"Business is becoming very globalized. I want to be prepared to work in all of it," Ma says.

She attended classes at Reutlingen University, known for its European School of Business, in courses that were carefully selected to match her college curriculum. And, yes, classes are taught in English, with the exception of her German language course.

At the age of 19, Ma was one of the youngest exchange students to attend Reutlingen, where one-quarter of the student population is made up of international students.

"It was an awesome, eye-opening experience," she says. "It will benefit me if I decide to work overseas. With courses like international business law, the knowledge is transferable."

Because university starts in October, she spent much of September getting accustomed to German life, which included sampling Oktoberfest, the Bavarian beer festival.

Ma experienced different teaching styles that involved building things and taking plenty of field trips. She was surprised to learn university tuition costs the equivalent of $700 in Germany.

Mandy Ma at the ruins of an old castle near Bad Urach, Germany.

"Germany has few natural resources, so they really stress higher education as a national strategy. They succeed in the global marketplace because of their knowledge and skills," observes Ma.

Beyond her studies in international business, Ma got the opportunity to travel around Europe — "It's so cheap to visit France and other places!" — and was invited out for dinner so many times she didn't cook for the first month she was there.

"Germans are so eager to enhance their English skills, they are all so friendly and outgoing when they meet international students."

Ma made plenty of friends among the other exchange students who had come to Reutlingen, including classmates from the United States, Russia, France and Australia.

Ma suggests Canadian exchange students should budget at least $5,000 or $6,000 for living expenses for four months. She lived in residence on campus; other students choose to rent a flat.

Upon her return to Canada, her university grades were added to her Centennial transcript and she got a full semester's credit towards her business diploma. Her European adventure even helped her land a co-op job at German manufacturer Siemens in Toronto.

"My job interviewer really emphasized the importance of my exchange experience, which made me think it's a real selling feature on my resumé."

Ma enthusiastically recommends the exchange program to other college students.

"If you're going to study business, you're going to have to take some risks — and this is one that definitely pays off." For details about Centennial's business programs, go to centennialcollege.ca/business. **–MARK TOLJAGIC**

Conestoga to offer free pre-apprenticeship training
Starting in February, Conestoga College will offer two free pre-apprenticeship programs that serve as pathways to careers or further education in the skilled trades. METRO NEWS SERVICES

McGill is top med school: Maclean's

Maclean's magazine released its annual university rankings Monday, but there were few surprises as Canada's economy goes through a rough patch that could lead to unemployed workers heading back to school for more education.

In the medical-doctoral ranking of schools that have a broad range of PhD programs and research, as well as medical schools, McGill University in Montreal took the top spot.

"Universities are big ships. Things don't change dramatically at universities, and you see that in terms of the rankings," said Tony Keller, managing editor, special projects, at Maclean's.

"There's a certain amount of stability within the system even as the economy goes up and down."

In the medical-doctoral ranking of schools that have a broad range of PhD programs and research, as well as medical schools, McGill University in Montreal took the top spot, followed by the University of Toronto and Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., in a tie. The University of British Columbia was next, followed by the University of Alberta and McMaster University in Hamilton.

Keller noted that only three years ago, the University of Calgary was 14th out of 15 schools.

"And they've just slowly but steadily moved up and they're now in seventh place out of 15 in the medical-doctoral category," he said.

The comprehensive category compared universities with a significant amount of research activity and a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate programs. Simon Fraser University in British Columbia climbed from second to take top spot this year, followed by the University of Victoria, Waterloo and the University of Guelph. Memorial University in St. John's, N.L., and the University of New Brunswick tied for fifth place.

And finally, the ranking of universities primarily focused on undergraduate studies saw Mount Allison in Sackville, N.B., in the No. 1 spot, followed by the University of Northern British Columbia, Acadia in Wolfville, N.S., St. Francis Xavier in Antigonish, N.S., Wilfrid Laurier in Waterloo, Ont., and Trent University in Peterborough, Ont.

Keller said UNBC has done well for a school that was established in the 1990s.

"It is now moved up into the top tier in its category, primarily undergraduate universities," he said. "That's a first, and that's quite an accomplishment for such a young school."

Keller also noted that during times of recession, more people go back to school.

"The opportunity cost of going to school, as economists would say, becomes lower, and what we tend to see in terms of recession is enrolment goes up simply because there are fewer jobs out there," Keller said.

But he said the Canadian university system as a whole has enough seats.

"There are many universities that are currently enrolling fewer people than they would like to enrol, particularly outside of the greater Toronto area," he said.

A decline in youth population has already started in the Maritimes and certain rural areas, he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

18th edition

- It's the 18th year for the Maclean's rankings, which take into account a wide range of factors, including student awards, awards for faculty, grants, student-faculty ratio and student service.

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Ontario MTCU rejects combined contract bargaining for universities

Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges, and Universities John Milloy said recently the province will not consider co-ordinated bargaining for all the province's universities, despite a second Ontario university going on strike since the fall term began. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Make this year debt free

As semesters go on, many students wonder where their money went

Like most college and university students, one of the biggest challenges you'll face, aside from exams and term papers, is making sure your money lasts through the year.

The thought of setting up a budget may seem overwhelming but it's no worse than having to call your parents for more money. Money management is one of the most valuable skills you'll learn.

A budget is simply a plan to help you see what you are spending but it also lets you see in advance if you are going to hit a shortfall on your money requirements.

NEWS CANADA PHOTO

According to a new poll from RBC, an overwhelming majority (79 per cent) of students will budget their spending while in school. But the challenge is creating a budget that's realistic and practical.

According to Kavita Joshi, director, Student Markets at RBC, "the key to setting up a budget is to try it for a week or a month. You'll be surprised how easy it is."

According to a new poll from RBC, an overwhelming majority (79 per cent) of students will budget their spending while in school. But the challenge is creating a budget that's realistic and practical.

To start, you'll need to track your spending. Joshi recommends organizing your expenses into two categories: Fixed expenses such as rent, tuition — things you need to pay each month. Then make a list of flexible expenses, such as groceries and clothing — items you need but the costs can vary from month to month. Subtract the fixed expenses from your budget to determine how much money you have after your necessary expenses are paid.

NEWS CANADA

When cash is tight — hang in there...

• Being a student sometimes means having to deal with serious cash flow problems. According to a new poll from RBC, it's an issue most students will struggle with, as 60 per cent of college and university students surveyed said that money was tight at some point during the past school year.

Often things cost more than expected. Sometimes there may be problems with student loans or with expected financial help from family. Budgets may not be realistic, or there simply isn't a budget at all.

As a result, there may not be enough money to cover basic expenses such as rent and food. So what do you do when you run into financial trouble for reasons that may be out of your control?

According to Kavita Joshi, director, Student Markets at RBC, "The best way to deal with a financial challenge is to face the problem directly, and become aware of the options available to you, because by not dealing with it, it will only get worse."

She cautions against racking up credit card debt to cover expenses or looking to cash advances or payday loans to cover debts because that will only lead to more debt and bigger headaches. **NEWS CANADA**

Money saving tips for students

ADVICE RBC recently asked students for their best money-saving tips — here's what they said:

• Overestimate your expenses when creating your yearly budget. Prices often increase or unexpected expenses may come up.

• Resist impulse buying when it comes to your meals. Keep a list of what you'll need for the week and try to stick to it.

• Buy used textbooks through your campus bookstore. Or search online and check school bulletin boards for deals.

• Avoid service fees at generic ATMs like those in bars, restaurants or corner stores; use your own bank's ATM.

• Lower the number of monthly transactions on your bank account by asking for cash back when you make debit card purchases — this counts as one transaction not two.

• Track store specials and clip coupons of your favourite products.

• Stock up on items you need when they go on sale.

• Ask for special student discount rates for travel and entertainment.

NEWS CANADA

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Robbins to take action over vote
Tim Robbins is set to take legal action against New York officials after he was nearly denied a vote on U.S. election day, accusing them of publishing his address while trying to "cover" their mistakes. The actor says his name wasn't on the list of voters. IMDB.COM

Entertainment

Guest stars
The Hills stars Heidi Montag, left, and Spencer Pratt will guest star on an episode of the CBS sitcom How I Met York Mother that will air in January. Both will film their segments this week. PEOPLE.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Guide to a kill

Villains doomed when they cross Bond

BRIAN TOWIE
Metro Canada

Villains always meet their ignominious demise in the James Bond movie series, and their dooms are often followed by a witty quip by Britain's near-invincible superspy.

That said, here's a look at some of the most horrid — and amusing — bad guy deaths in the 007 franchise. We don't mention them all, so return to your Bond collection and peruse these mirth-making murders.

And don't feel bad about laughing: They deserved it.

• **Boris Grishenko (Goldeneye):** This Russian computer expert gets his due for aiding the evil rogue agent Alec Trevelyan when he yells, "I am invincible!" shortly before being frozen solid by a leaking liquid nitrogen tank.

• **Oddjob and the Cuban assassin (Goldfinger):** Two great electrocutions in this film. Before the opening credits, Bond dispatches a Cuban assassin by tossing him into a bathtub, then adding an electric lamp. 007 then quips, "Shocking." During his climatic battle with Oddjob, Bond uses a live wire to channel a lethal current through Oddjob's razor-sharp bowler hat, and consequently Oddjob.

• **Hugo Drax (Moonraker):** Bond sends Drax, wounded by a poison dart, through a space station airlock and into the cosmos, saying, "Take a giant leap for mankind."

• **Milton Krest (Licence To Kill):** Slimy henchman Krest has a falling out with Sanchez, his drug lord boss. Sanchez traps Krest in a high-pressure chamber, where his head inflates and explodes all over a pile of stolen drug money. Licence To Kill was a particularly brutal flick: A henchman gets fed to a shark, another is tossed in a giant drawer full of hungry maggots, and a young Benicio Del Toro is chopped up by a cocaine grinding machine.

• **Elliot Carver's henchman (Tomorrow Never Dies):** An assassin adds some red toner when he's thrown into a printing press. Bond says, "They'll print anything these days."

After his death in Live And Let Die, James Bond noted that Dr. Kananga "always did have an inflated opinion of himself."

• **Dr. Kananga (Live And Let Die):** During an underwater fight — involving sharks, of course — Bond feeds the crime lord a capsule of compressed air, causing him to turn into a bursting balloon. The quip, "He always did have an inflated opinion of himself."

• **Elektra King (The World Is Not Enough):** As Bond trains his gun, his villainous exflame tells him, "You wouldn't kill me, you would miss me." Bond replies, "I never miss," and then caps her in the head. Ruthless.

Boyden wins prestigious Giller Prize

BOOKS New Orleans resident Joseph Boyden has won the 2008 Scotiabank Giller Prize for his second novel, Through Black Spruce.

The Giller, which is worth $50,000, is celebrating its 15th year.

Joseph Boyden

Boyden's book is a portrait of contemporary aboriginal life and family struggles that ensue after a beautiful young woman goes missing.

The author, who was raised in a Toronto suburb, burst onto the literary scene in 2005 with his debut novel, Three Day Road.

This year's Giller judging panel included author Margaret Atwood and politician Bob Rae.

Created by businessman Jack Rabinovitch in memory of his late wife, literary journalist Doris Giller, the prize has become the biggest Canadian book bash of the year.

The shortlisted books usually receive a boost in sales and the authors get some rare media exposure.

This year's judges read 95 books to eventually settle on a short list of five. Runners-up receive $5,000 apiece. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Slumdog Millionaire is a real crowd-pleaser

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Slumdog Millionaire
Director: Danny Boyle
Stars: Dev Patel, Irrfan Khan, Anil Kapoor
Classification: 14A
Rating: ●●●●

Danny Boyle has been one of the biggest filmmakers in Britain since he burst onto the scene with Trainspotting. Since then, he has been a constant force in British filmmaking, even though he has yet to equal the energy or excitement of his first films.

That is until he created Slumdog Millionaire, which sees the now 52-year-old director recapture the vibrancy of his early work thanks to a trip to India.

Slumdog Millionaire tells the story of a young man (Jamal Malik) who manages to win the Indian edition of Who Wants To Be A Millionaire, but is accused of cheating because the creators of the show refuse to believe that an uneducated child of the slums could possibly know the answers.

He is forced to explain how he acquired this knowledge to the police and in doing so, tells his life story. It's a Dickensian tale of struggle and impoverishment that takes Jamal from the crime-ridden slums to the disgustingly garish world of the wealthy.

Boyle shoots the film with an incredible sense of style. The story is so fast, traditional, and colourful you can practically hear him giggling with excitement from behind the camera. At its heart, the film is a fairy tale love story, with Jamal struggling to find a girl who he has loved since childhood. While the movie begins with harsh realism it slowly transforms into Bollywood fantasy, ending with one of the large scale dance numbers that defines the industry.

The outline suggests a significant cheese factor but while there are moments that induce eye rolling, the film is told in such a contemporary and bombastic manner that it's hard to ever be completely turned off by the schmaltz.

It's rousing, crowd-pleasing entertainment that won the People's Choice award at TIFF for good reason: It's impossible to walk out of Slumdog Millionaire without a big silly grin on your face.

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Sopranos star innocent, dad says

The father of former Sopranos actor Lillo Brancato Jr. says his son should be cleared of the murder of a New York police officer because he wasn't carrying a gun when the officer was shot. IMDB.COM

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Theatres missed out on early punk biopic

RICK MCGINNIS
Metro Canada

Anyone who knew the band probably would have laughed at you if you said that one day, there would be a Hollywood biopic of The Germs, with a big TV star living out his dream to play the band's lead singer, Darby Crash.

That film, What We Do Is Secret, arrives on DVD this week after a very brief theatrical run, an example of the sorts of films that are finding the better part of their commercial life away from the theatres, and a labour of love for its director and star.

Lorna Doom was Terri Ryan when she met Darby Crash in high school, and was renamed in typical punk style when they started the band and recorded Forming, one of the most gleefully incompetent punk rock singles ever released. The band got better, and managed to be wildly influential despite getting banned from every rock club in Los Angeles before Crash overdosed himself the night before John Lennon was shot.

"If he hadn't have done it when he did it he probably would have done it a few years later," Lorna tells me, recalling her friend, who's played by E.R.'s Shane West in the film. "Unless we had become massively successful, but that wasn't an option."

Director Rodger Grossman started planning the film after leaving film school, over a decade ago, getting Doom and bandmates Pat Smear (Nirvana, Foo Fighters) and Don Bolles on board to consult, before West signed on and helped get the film's tiny budget financed.

West is a rabid fan of The Germs, and has even taken the singer's place in a reformed Germs since filming was completed.

There are a lot of films like What We Do Is Secret – decent, watchable products of real inspiration that probably never stood a chance of release in the ever-tightening theatrical market of blockbusters, multiplexes and "tent pole films".

The movie industry seems to have created a yawning gulf between major releases and cult films, which includes practically everything else, most of which only gets a real shot at an audience on DVD.

"I think it's the people who were around during the time, and people who were curious and missed the scene," says Lorna. "It's kind of like our audience. People who want to see where punk rock began."

Actor's dedication

- E.R. actor Shane West went to great lengths to portray the musician.
- West, who was a toddler when Crash died, got an identical tattoo, and altered his teeth to replicate Crash's.

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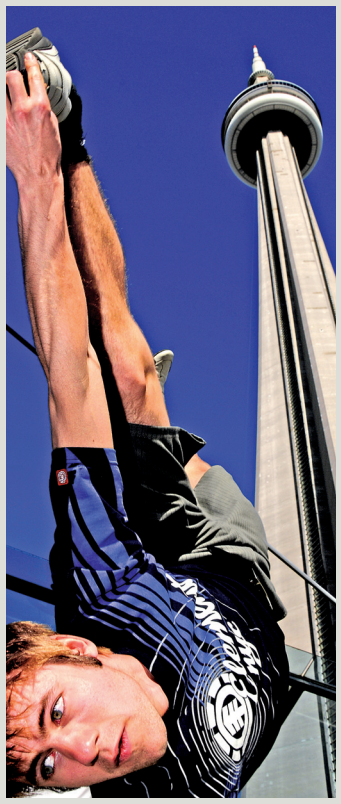
Steve Tunzi, Toronto

Toronto Breaks



"His red shirt caught my eye and the late afternoon sun made everything sparkle ... I was trying to capture the colour, solitude and hard work of a gentleman and his urban jungle."
Dave Cheresna, Toronto

Keep Off My Lawn

Metro's Global Photo Challenge has drawn 3,890 entries from Toronto, Ottawa, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton and Halifax, and 55,389 international entries. The Top 10 photos are on display at the CN Tower until Nov. 16. Vote for your favourite shot online at **metronews.ca/photochallenge** until Nov. 23. An international jury will judge the Top 5 photos, and the winner will receive a Nikon D700 DSLR and Nikon 24-70mm F2.8 zoom lens. The photos above are details of the entries. Visit the website to see the full image.

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Armstrong returning to Dirty Sexy Money
An ABC spokesperson confirms that Samaire Armstrong will be returning to Dirty Sexy Money for a special U.S. Thanksgiving-themed episode to air on Nov. 26. **EW.COM**

Shield has loyal viewers

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

THAT'S WHAT DVD BOX SETS ARE FOR: I've made a point of insisting since I began writing this column four and a half years ago that I watch as little TV as possible. Readers — and even friends — have told me that they envy my luxurious life, lounging around watching TV all day; far from it. I have far too much else going on (writing features, raising kids, pretending to be James Bond) to waste it vegging out in front of the tube like some depressed jobless grad with an arts B.A.

Michael Chiklis

And frankly, I think it would be harder to write this column — and a lot less fun to read it — if I did it from a position of being held hostage to a host of fave shows and compulsive nightly surfing up and down the dial, which would inevitably feel like the aesthetic equivalent of Stockholm Syndrome. There's a lot to watch on TV these days, and I can only imagine how much easier it would have been to do this job in 1973. A conscientious columnist would be obliged to watch as much crap as quality, and if there's one thing I'm not it's a conscientious TV columnist.

One unfortunate side-effect is that I miss a lot of good shows, and readers frequently write in to bug me about it. One of those shows is The Shield, the FX cop drama starring Michael Chiklis that's nearing the end of its seventh and final season. It has a large and loyal audience that regard it as on a creative par with The Sopranos, Deadwood and Mad Men, and they've frequently asked — in sometimes unkind language — why I've ignored it for so long.

I can tell you why, and this paragraph from a Salon.com story on the show's coming finale pretty much sums it up: "There are so many different chess pieces in play at this point, sometimes it's tough to keep up. Mackey is manipulating his longtime enemy, councilman David Aceveda (Benito Martinez), his ex-wife, Corinne (Cathy Cahlin Ryan), FBI agent Olivia Murray (Laurie Holden), the Mexican drug cartel, fellow Strike Team loyalist Ronnie (David Rees Snell), his former boss detective Claudette Wyms (CCH Pounder) — the list goes on and on. But Mackey is so good at what he does — double-dealing, backtracking, using whatever he can as leverage against anyone with any power, rethinking his plan, recalibrating his approach."

There is, let's be honest, no way I'm going to cut through that thicket of back story and exposition and appreciate what's going on as the show heads for the bloody climax that many of us (mistakenly) predicted for The Sopranos. It took a Herculean effort of Googling and YouTube searching to get up to speed with the last two seasons of The Sopranos, and now that the deluxe complete box set of the HBO series is coming out, I can finally go back and enjoy the early seasons that I missed because, a) I wasn't writing a TV column and b) I wasn't watching much TV, which is sort of where I came in here. That said, I'm looking forward to a bricklike box set of The Shield at some point in the near future, which will let me agree, quietly and in the dark of some sleepless night, that my readers were right.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Theatre community to honour Studs Terkel

PEOPLE Actor David Schwimmer will be among members of Chicago's theatre community honouring the late Studs Terkel next week.

The broadcaster, activist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author died Oct. 31 at age 96.

On Monday, the Steppenwolf Theatre Company will host a tribute to Terkel, including a staged reading with music adapted from Terkel's book, Will the Circle Be Unbroken? Reflections on Death, Rebirth, and Hunger for a Faith.

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GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO
Studs Terkel was a broadcaster, activist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author.

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TO		Vu	SC		C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
11/12/08	primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Meerkat Manor	Meerkat Manor	The Agenda With Steve Paikin		General Idea: Art, AIDS		Human Edge (N)		Agenda-Paikin
		211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		House (HDTV)		The Guard (N)		News (N)
		215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
		210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Little Mosque	Sophie (HDTV)	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National		The Hour
		214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		The 42nd Annual CMA Awards Festivities honor excellence in country music.						News (N)
		212	313	8	CTV	etalk (N)	Hollywood	You Can Dance		Criminal Minds (N)		CSI: NY "Dead Inside"		News (N)
		218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)		Hulk Hogan	The Soup	Johnny Depp: True Story		News (N)
		137	763	13	TFO	Panorama		Les Citadins du rebut global		*Sharaku* ★★ (1995, Drame) Hiroyuki Sanada, Shima Iwashita.				Enfants
		-	-	14	-	Cold Case "Yo, Adrian"		News (N)		News (N)		2Half Men	King	Cold Case
		213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	*Double Cross* (2006, Suspense) Yancy Butler.				To Serve and Protect		Grill Rm.
		-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (N)		CSI: NY "Dead Inside"		News (N)
		-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)		Life "Black Friday" (N)		Law & Order (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
		-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The 42nd Annual CMA Awards Festivities honor excellence in country music.						News
		219	346	20	ACH-B	Robson Arms	TMZ (N)	Monk		*About a Boy* ★★★ (2002, Comedy-Drama) Hugh Grant.				News (N)
		-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		House (HDTV)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
		-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Vicar of Dibley	Andre Rieu: Live in Vienna					Classical Dest.	Business Rpt.
		297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model (N)		Stylista (N)		CW11 News at Ten (N)		Two/Half Men
		296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
		298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Family Guy	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Next Model
	news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		The Human Spider (N)		National
		500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
		509	504	79	CNB	CNBC Reports				To Be Announced		The Big Idea With Deutsch		Mad Money
	sports	405	417	22	net	Air Racing	Simply	The Ultimate Fighter		Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
		400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	Interruption	2008 Hockey Hall of Fame Induction			NHL Pregame	NHL Hockey: Avalanche at Canucks		
		411	457	58	OLN	Ed's Up	Videos	The Amazing Race 13		Ed's Up	Adventures	Word Travels	Globe Guides	Pilot Guides
		417	406	81	SC	Pinks	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks	Pinks Outtakes	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pinks (HDTV)
	family	551	542	25	YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Improve.	Malcolm-Mid.	Fresh Prince	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline Proj	Mystery Hnt.
		554	544	45	TEL	George-Jungle	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	The Critic	Robot Chicken	Daughter-Devil
		556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery Bag	Maxed Out	Supersize vs. Superskinny		She's Got the Look		Style by Jury
		570	580	29	MM	Punk'd	Punk'd	Punk'd	Punk'd	Punk'd	Punk'd	Degrassi: Next	Degrassi: Next	PunchMuch
		615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Death Grip"		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars
		700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	L'Onore e il Rispetto				Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
		571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	MusicProfile	Back In	Back In	Revival	Where You At	Fabulous Life Of...		Party of Five
		575	583	38	CMT	Cheerleaders	Cheerleaders	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Coyote Ugly
		616	521	39	SHO	Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Durham County		Billable Hours	G-Spot	Starter Wife		House
		620	523	40	BVO	Desperate Housewives		Berkeley	Bravo!Videos	Wingfield	Letters	Arts & Minds	The Achievers	Law & Order
		601	562	41	SLC	End of Leash	ET Canada	Last 10	Bulging Brides	Work Out		Real Housewives of NYC		Last 10
		522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Heart Break"		Finding the Fallen		Finding the Fallen		NCIS "Heart Break"		Normandy
		625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	House Party	House Party	Daily Show
		600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Mansions	The Stagers	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Million Dollar Listing		Holmes-Homes
		294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*The Bourne Supremacy* ★★★ (2004, Suspense) Matt Damon.				Steve Harvey	Family Guy	Family Guy
		576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		Brothers to Brutha Sneak		Keyshia Cole	Keyshia Cole	Comic View	Black Carpet	Judge Hatchett
		627	528	50	SPC	Lost "One of Them"		Star Trek: Deep Space Nine		Battlestar Galactica		Ghost Hunters International (N)		Stargate SG-1
		581	566	52	MTV	Busted	After	MTV News	Cribs	Real World-Road Rules		Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live
		618	524	54	TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210		Reality	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	'70s Show	Family Guy
		603	561	56	FOOD	The Main	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Iron Chef America		Top Chef "Melting Pot" (N)		
		261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Summer Wine	Dinnerladies	Darling Buds of May		Enigma		Hope Island
		621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	etalk (N)	Paris Hilton's My New BFF		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
		553	546	65	TRE	Wonder Pets	Nght Grdn	Friend Rabbit	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears
		115	711	101	TVA	Occupation	Poule-oeufs or	Destinées		Les Soeurs Elliot		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
		126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
		526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Commander In Chief		The West Wing		Mediums	Psychic Detect	Mediums
		300	601	301	M1	(7:15) *The Rival* (2006, Suspense) Tracy Nelson.				*In the Valley of Elah* ★★★ (2007, Drama), Jason Patric				*Smokin' Aces*
		305	612	306	PIX	*Family of Cops*	(7:20) *Breach of Faith: Family of Cops II*			*For Your Eyes Only* ★★★ (1981, Action) Roger Moore.				*Danger Zone*

critics' corner

CSI: NY
Finding a nice place to live in the New York metropolitan area can be a challenge. Just ask the CSIs. This week, they investigate the brutal murder of a house relocator who was found dead inside an old Victorian that was being barged from Staten Island to the Upper East Side. The crime leads them to the world of "Secret U," an arthouse world of true confessionals where 20-somethings divulge their darkest secrets, with deadly results. 10 PM on CTV

The 42nd Annual CMA Awards
Oh, my God, they nominated Kenny! And nominated him again! Kenny Chesney is the man to beat at this year's awards honoring country music's best. He's got seven nominations, including entertainer of the year and single of the year for "Don't Blink." He's scheduled to perform on the show as well, along with, among others, Alan Jackson, Taylor Swift and the duo Sugarland, who's right behind him with six nominations. Brad Paisley and Carrie Underwood host. 8 PM on ABC

McCartney's daughter to sing in Shrek 4
Sir Paul McCartney's five-year-old daughter is to sing in the new Shrek 4 movie. The music legend is voicing a character and writing a song for the latest instalment in the hit animated franchise. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Celebrity Buzz

Richards admires Madonna's energy

PEOPLE Denise Richards says seeing 50-year-old Madonna perform her Sticky & Sweet tour over the weekend was "amazing," usmagazine.com reports.

"You feel lazy watching her because you gotta get off your butt and just work," the actress said.

Richards added that the singer (who recently announced her divorce from Guy Ritchie) "is really an inspiration for everyone."

Meanwhile, Richards said she can't wait to get behind the camera to film the second season of her E! reality show It's Complicated.

"You know, there's not much to tell. We start filming in January, and we're all very excited to start up again," Richards said. "As my life changes, Season 2 will be different because different things happen, and it's a reality show."

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GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Washington criticizes Grey's

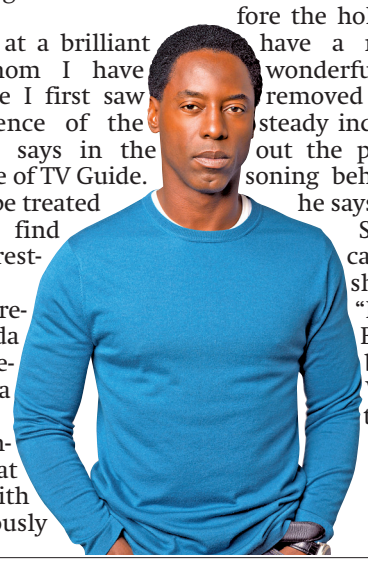
CONTROVERSY Former Grey's Anatomy star Isaiah Washington, who was axed from the show in 2007 after spewing a homophobic slur at T.R. Knight, is slamming the show for firing Brooke Smith, usmagazine.com reports.

"I looked at a brilliant actress, whom I have adored since I first saw her in Silence of the Lambs," he says in the Nov. 17 issue of TV Guide. "For her to be treated this way, I find very interesting."

Grey's creator Shonda Rhimes released a statement last week insisting that "Brooke Smith was obviously not fired for playing a lesbian ... we did not find that the magic and chemistry with Brooke's character would sustain in the long run."

Regardless, Washington says the move was harsh.?? "The fact is that, just before the holidays, you have a mother, a wonderful actress removed from a steady income without the proper reasoning behind it ...," he says. So what can the show do? "Bring Burke back!" Washington says.??

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Beyoncé inherits style from mom

FASHION Beyoncé's sense of style comes from a source close to home — her mother Tina, who owned a hair salon and taught the young Beyoncé how to dress well and save money, People.com reports. ??

"She'd get us little jackets and we'd go to an art supply store and we'd get stones and glitter and we'd personalize a lot of our clothes," Beyoncé, 27, said in an interview in the premiere issue of The New York Observer Style.

"She taught me the importance of looking good and feeling good, but also that beauty comes from within, because it fades."??

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Halliwell breaks up with boyfriend

RELATIONSHIPS Former Spice Girl Geri Halliwell has dumped her boyfriend Ivan "Flipz" Velez over the phone, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Halliwell reportedly called the backing dancer three weeks ago to tell him she was ending their six-month romance.

"She called 'Flipz' when she returned to the U.K. from Los Angeles and confessed that things just weren't working for her," a source said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Craig is ready to purchase house

PEOPLE "Daniel Craig is planning to buy a permanent home because he is so fed up of living out of a suitcase, imdb.com reports.

The James Bond star has been staying in hotels for the past two years due to his hectic work schedule.

But Craig now feels the time is right to set up a base.

"I just haven't had the time to buy anywhere," Craig says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Winehouse fed up?

RELATIONSHIPS Amy Winehouse is reportedly at "breaking point" over her husband's friendship with another woman, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer, who hasn't seen Blake Fielder-Civil since his release from prison last week, is said to be devastated after discovering he told Sophie Schandorff he was leaving jail early to enter a rehabilitation clinic before he broke the news to her.

"When Amy found out Blake had been in contact with Sophie it was the final straw," a source close to Winehouse told Britain's The Sun newspaper. "Amy hasn't visited him in rehab and is refusing to take his calls. It looks like it's over but we've been here before. He's talked her round plenty of times before."

Fielder-Civil is apparently convinced his year-long marriage is in good shape.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Is Orlando ready to settle down?

MARRIAGE Actor Orlando Bloom and his supermodel girlfriend Miranda Kerr are reportedly making plans to marry, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

"They are talking about settling down and getting married in a year," a source told Star magazine. "They have had a bit of a crazy year, but they do love each other and she wants to be his wife."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

FameThrower

Joe O'Neill

Joe's take on celebrities

We all have to take our inspiration from somewhere, and apparently **Denise Richards** is taking hers from a really sinewy and annoying woman who stalks around on stage shrieking, wearing huge platform boots and pretending to play the guitar. And I'm not talking about **Avril Lavigne**, I'm talking about **Madonna**. When it comes to women who inspire, I'm afraid **Mother Teresa** just wasn't quite fabulous enough.

So I suppose we should all wish Richards luck with that whole pumping iron, taking steroids, embracing a dubious belief system and turning into a man thing, and on the shooting of the second season of her reality show, It's Complicated. The show isn't actually that complicated, but it has managed to make television critics unanimously put forth the name of the inventor of the fast-forward button for sainthood. I mean, how many ways can anyone think of to communicate the idea that Charlie Sheen was a bad husband and father? Even Charlie Sheen doesn't argue that point.

NEWSDESK@METRONEWS.CA

APPROACH life's ups and downs *with ease*

Elevator/Escalator Safety Awareness Week:

November 9-15, 2008

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- ☑ **Always stand facing forward.**
- ☑ **Use an elevator if carrying multiple bags or parcels.**
- ☑ **Keep loose clothing (i.e. scarfs, long coats) clear of escalator steps and sides.**
- ☑ **Attend to children and hold their hands.**

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Friday Rain 80% 11° / 2°

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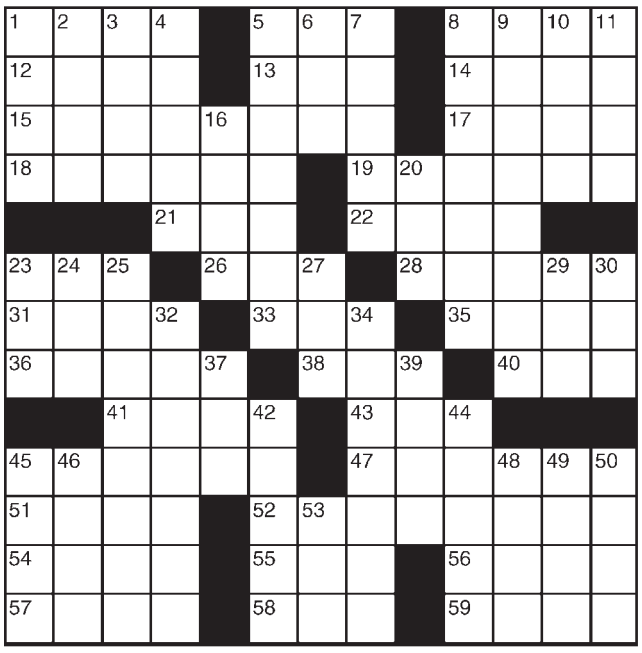

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		4	2	6		8		7
3		2	4					5
	7							
5		8			7			
		6				2		
			9			5		3
							8	
6					1	3		2
4		1		3	9	7		

Crossword across

1 Secure place for valuables
5 Hair-salon application
8 Celeb
12 PC picture
13 Bullring bravo
14 You
15 Misled
17 Cupid's alias
18 Appeared to be
19 Show-biz skill
21 "Of course"
22 Unrivaled
23 Pretense
26 Cauldron
28 Suburbanites' pride
31 Wonka's creator
33 Japanese theater
35 Racetrack boundary
36 Fat-shunning Jack
38 Boxer
40 "Yippee!"
41 Physical
43 Affirmative action?
45 Clyde's partner
47 Envisioned, in a way
51 Lotion additive
52 Grain machine
54 Frees (of)
55 "Norma —"
56 Gambling game
57 Santa's sackful
58 Antiquated
59 Pornography

Crossword down

1 Perches
2 Rue the workout
3 Golfer's warning
4 Adversary
5 Mark of game-show fame
6 Sprite
7 Some turns
8 Outstanding
9 Trilateral
10 A billion years (Var.)
11 Whatever's left over
16 Sob
20 "You've got mail" co.
23 Billboards
24 Upper limit
25 Elegy
27 Surpass
29 Peeples or Vardalos
30 Crafty
32 Negligence
34 Ten times ten
37 Skater Babilonia
39 Cheney predecessor
42 Paris subway
44 Classroom array
45 Homer's son
46 Medley
48 Throat-clearing sound
49 Options list
50 Jog
53 "2001" computer

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

S	L	O	T	■	F	A	T	■	T	I	D	E
P	U	P	A	■	R	I	O	■	U	R	A	L
A	L	T	I	T	U	D	E	■	R	I	D	E
M	U	S	■	H	I	S	■	E	P	S	O	M
■	■	■	M	I	T	■	D	O	I	■	■	■
G	A	L	A	S	■	M	Y	S	T	E	R	Y
A	G	O	G	■	H	U	E	■	U	L	E	E
L	O	U	N	G	E	D	■	E	D	I	T	S
■	■	■	I	A	M	■	A	T	E	■	■	■
C	A	R	T	S	■	F	L	U	■	J	A	G
L	I	E	U	■	S	O	L	I	T	U	D	E
A	R	I	D	■	O	R	O	■	E	D	A	M
D	Y	N	E	■	S	K	Y	■	T	O	M	S

4	8	5	3	9	7	2	1	6
9	6	2	4	1	5	3	8	7
3	1	7	6	2	8	4	9	5
2	9	8	7	5	6	1	4	3
6	3	1	2	4	9	5	7	8
7	5	4	1	8	3	6	2	9
5	4	9	8	6	2	7	3	1
8	2	3	5	7	1	9	6	4
1	7	6	9	3	4	8	5	2

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Stir-Fried Beef with Mango

INGREDIENTS:
14 oz (400 g) lean steak, trimmed of fat
3 garlic cloves, minced
1 tsp (5 mL) sugar
2 tsp (10 mL) soy sauce
1 1/2 tbsp (20 mL) sunflower oil

GINGER AND HONEY DRESSING:
2 tsp (10 mL) paprika
1/2 tsp (2 mL) cayenne
1 1/2 tbsp (20 mL) honey
1 inch (2.5 cm) piece of fresh ginger, peeled and grated
4 tbsp (60 mL) rice vinegar or apple cider vinegar
Juice of 1 lime

SALAD:
1 mango, peeled and cut into strips
2 plums, sliced
1/2 medium red cabbage, shredded
2 oz (60 g) watercress leaves
1/2 cucumber, cut into matchsticks
1/2 red pepper, seeded and cut into thin strips
3 scallions, sliced diagonally
1 1/2 oz (45 mL) mixed fresh mint and cilantro
2 tbsp (25 mL) coarsely chopped roasted unsalted peanuts

METHOD:
1. For dressing, put paprika, cayenne, honey, ginger and vinegar in a saucepan over medium heat. Slowly add 1 cup (250 mL) water, stirring, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer 5 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in lime juice; set aside.
2. Combine salad ingredients, except peanuts, in a large serving dish and toss gently; set aside.
3. Cut steak into thin strips and put in a bowl with garlic, sugar and soy sauce. Mix to season strips. Heat nonstick skillet over high heat. Add oil and beef. Stir-fry until strips are evenly brown and cooked to taste, about 3 minutes.
4. Spoon beef over salad. Drizzle dressing over and sprinkle with peanuts.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A doubtful contender makes a move forward. Compatible people will melt away emotional blocks. Relationships with neighbours will interest you.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
People will accuse you of overdoing things. You'll see profound changes going on. Someone will need to kiss and tell about it.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Cunning and eagerness is found among peers. You'll get somebody's back up. Prepare to stand your ground.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A social group takes over and gets special treatment. Observe co-workers to see who is going wrong. Memory loss will give some relief.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
An impressive event will cost big bucks. A melodramatic person will be frowned upon. A peculiar associate is on pins and needles.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A messenger will mess up. An idealist's heartbreak causes weepiness. A supporter has regrets due to amnesia.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Think seriously about what you should be doing. A man comments on your expectations. Someone will ask to borrow money.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A cynical person ends a scheme. A former foe is still shaky after what you did. A nuisance must be stopped.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
A passionate person's difficult behaviour is justified. A strange demonstration will shock you. A negative reply causes a standoff.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Provide relief when it's expected. Restrain your temper with disorderly people. The game is over for an old-fashioned guy.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A get-together will change your life for the better. You must be determined to succeed. A dilemma is followed by a turnover.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A banking problem makes someone anxious. You should quit while you're ahead. Meetings with progressive people will take place.

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Pickering Town Centre
Scarborough Town Centre
Sherway Gardens
Square One
Stone Road Mall
Tecumseh Mall
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CITY: 10.3 L/100KM 27 MPG

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5-STAR CRASH TEST RATING
NHTSA - Frontal and side impacts††

LX model shown

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2.9% LEASE APR*

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★★★★★
5-STAR CRASH TEST RATING
NHTSA - Frontal impacts††

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LX model shown

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CITY: 8.6 L/100KM 33 MPG

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